



Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

LWN

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'Ultimate local candidate' lines up for Rifkind's safe Tory seat

BOROUGH Councillor Victoria Borwick is now the front-runner to be picked as the new Conservative candidate for Parliament – with her popularity increasing as indignant calls grow locally for Downing Street to butt out of the selection process.

Lady Borwick - Kensington and Chelsea councillor for the Abingdon ward, Deputy Mayor of London and the most senior woman in the capital's politics - says she is "the ultimate local candidate".

This Tuesday Kensington Tories will be given a list of six preferred candidates drawn up by Conservative Central Office after talks with leaders of the local association of the Party. Senior Kensington Tories will reduce this to three candidates and it is understood that they will then pitch for the post at a

ANALYSIS

by Geoff Baker

closed-doors meeting of local Party members at the Town Hall on Friday, where a vote will be taken to elect the replacement for Sir Malcolm Rifkind.

Lady Borwick (pictured), who has served on Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council since 2002, is campaigning on her superior local knowledge.

She said: "I feel I know Kensington inside out".

She added: "I have lived and worked in this wonderful part of London all my life and raised my four children here. I have been a councillor for more than 10 years and a member of the GLA



for seven years. There is hardly a street I haven't canvassed. As a school governor for Golborne and Maxilla under the Westway, I am not just talking about the leafy parts of the borough. I regard myself as the ultimate local candidate.

"In political terms, I love getting my hands dirty – so much so that I have even been lowered through a man-hole into the new Thames Sideway sewer.

"I am fiercely opposed to Labour's mansion tax, which would hit Kensington very hard and penalise many cash-poor, asset-rich people who bought homes 20 to 30 years ago and now face an extra annual tax of £10,000 a year or more. I would do all I can to stop it."

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INSIDE YOUR BRIGHT NEW LOCAL



Why the Queen is paying a private visit to Battersea Dogs Home

- see page 13

● ACTION FOLLOWS FATAL ACCIDENTS

Basements: Safety squads get tough

GOVERNMENT safety squads are to swoop on iceberg homes in Kensington and Chelsea this week following the shock revelation that 44 men have been killed or seriously injured whilst building billionaires' basements.

● By LWN reporter **GEOFF BAKER**

Teams from the Health and Safety Executive have targeted the borough for a 48-hour scrutiny of safety standards which the national regulator says "are often poor".

The swoop will be welcomed by hundreds of residents who are concerned about the safety of building work on some 400 basements at luxury homes in the borough.

Many residents are already up in arms in protest against the vibration, noise, dust and parking suspensions caused by the underground enlarging of rich men's homes.

Now they will be alarmed to discover that many deaths have happened because of basement works caving in.

"Construction inspectors will be focusing on sites in Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham in a bid to improve safety in the increasingly-popular basement sector,"

said the HSE.

"This action follows a number of fatal accidents, as well as serious injuries, in the capital in recent years relating to basement projects.

The HSE said: "Over the past 10 years we have received reports of 17 construction workers having died as a result of an excavation collapsing, whilst in the same period 27 were seriously injured".

Restriction on 'dig-downs'

The borough has become a boomtown for big basements over the past 15 years. In 2001, the number of planning applications to the borough council for basement developments was 46. In 2013 the number of applications had rocketed to 450.

Safety fears have already caused Kensington and Chelsea borough council to act by slapping a restriction on new "dig-downs" to just one storey beneath ground level.

Three years ago Goldman Sachs boss Christoph Stanger had to apologise and offer compensation to neighbours after

a basement excavation at his £7 million home in Palace Gardens Terrace caused cracks to appear in adjoining properties.

The HSE squad will spend two days touring the royal borough this week and they have warned that they will not hesitate to take action including prosecution if they find work is unsafe.

Last December building boss Conrad Sidebottom, a company director with Siday Construction, was jailed for three years for manslaughter after labourer Anghel Milosavlevici was crushed to death at a basement excavation in Fulham. Sidebottom and safety consultant Richard Golding, who has jailed for nine months, were convicted of failing to take reasonable care for Milosavlevici's health and safety.

"The construction of basements in London is increasingly widespread," said inspector James Hickman, who will be leading the HSE team on the probe of safety standards in Kensington.

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Stand by Nelson, the Irish are coming ...

See page 20


THE paper serving the **HEART** of London

Huge increase in number of street trees in the capital

We're planting 20,000 trees in London

THE Mayor's Street Tree scheme marks the planting of a record number of 20,000 trees along London's roads. Aimed at brightening up congested high roads and enhancing the environment, this is a huge milestone in the scheme which has resulted in a variety of trees such as birches and oaks being planted across London boroughs.

Street trees are planted on pavements and along highways to clean the air, keep the city cooler in the summer and increase green space. Boroughs have all seen a huge increase in the number of trees appearing along their streets in the past year, with 300 in Lambeth, 400 in Islington and over 1,000 in Ealing.

Matthew Pencharz, the Mayor's Senior Advisor on Environment & Energy planted the 20,000th new tree today in Streatham – a Prunus Royal Burgundy, chosen to add a splash of colour to the residential road. This is one of 600 trees delivered in the area over the past two years by the scheme. He was

joined by the Streatham Bridge Business Association, a collective of community groups who have received a total of £135,000 from the Mayor's fund to help brighten up Streatham – including 48 along Streatham High Road, where new trees are transforming the area.

Matthew Pencharz said: "This is a fantastic scheme that has improved the aesthetic of busy streets across the capital. The 20,000th tree symbolises the amazing work carried out by local businesses, boroughs and individuals passionate about improving their area. By planting thousands of trees, we are making the air

cleaner and ensuring a better quality of life for Londoners."

Anthony Ellis, a spokesman for the Streatham Bridge Business Association said: "Working cooperatively with Lambeth Council and Transport for London, the Street Tree Initiative has contributed to the renewal of three large public places in Streatham, and planted trees on more than sixty residential streets. Streathamites will benefit from this new streetscape for decades to come."

The Mayor's Street Tree Initiative, in partnership with the Forestry Commission and Groundwork London, is part of the Mayor's commitment to maintain London's status as one of the greenest and leafiest cities and encourage London individuals, businesses and community groups to plant more trees.

Craig Harrison, London Manager for the Forestry Commission, said "The Mayor's Street Trees will improve London's landscape now and for generations to come – not only making streets more attractive but providing other benefits such as shade and air quality improvement."

This is part of the Mayor's wider plans to

make London a greener city including delivering 100 Pocket Parks and funding tree and woodland projects via the Community Grant Scheme which is engaging communities and volunteers across London. The Mayor leads the RE:LEAF partnership of organisations involved in London's trees and woodlands, and through this partnership has delivered a range of projects including planting 10,000 trees in Ealing last December.

● The Mayor's Street Tree Initiative, delivered in partnership with the Forestry Commission, was open to all London boroughs and private landowners who own or manage public realm (including businesses, registered social landlords, etc). It was also open to civil society organisations and community groups working with or on behalf of boroughs and private landowners. The Mayor has spent £5.7m on the Street Tree Initiative since 2008 with over £3m having been match funded by the recipients of the grant. For more information visit: <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/environment/greening-london/re-leaf/mayors-street-tree-initiative>



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Chance to win £25,000 is you pay your council tax by direct debit

PAY your council tax by direct debit and you could be in with a chance of winning a £25,000 prize.

Royal Borough residents who register to pay their council tax bill by direct debit before 5pm on July 17th will be entered into the draw organised by Bacs Payment Schemes Limited (Bacs), the not-for-profit organisation behind direct debit in the UK. Residents who already pay by direct debit will be automatically entered into the draw.

To sign up to pay your council tax by direct debit go to www.rbkc.gov.uk/counciltax or call

020 7368 8906. Direct debit is a much cheaper way for a council to process payments and the money saved can be used for the benefit of local residents.

The Royal Borough is one of 16 London boroughs taking part in the campaign, which has been running since 2010.

People who live in Barnet, Bexley, Brent, City of Westminster, Ealing, Enfield, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Hounslow, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets are all eligible for entry into the draw.

Surge of complaints over No 10 favouring Rifkind's successor

■ FROM PAGE ONE

Support for Lady Borwick is growing in tandem with a surge of complaints that Central Office and the Prime Minister's Office is taking a big hand in proposing favoured, but non-local, candidates for the safe Tory seat.

Among Downing Street favourites for the job are Laura Trott, the Prime Minister's adviser on women's issues, Clare Foges, the Prime Minister's speechwriter, and Phillippa Stroud, policy adviser to Iain Duncan Smith. Celebrity candidates have also been suggested, including former Olympics rower James Cracknell, footballers Sol Campbell and Frank Lampard and ex-Newsnight pin-up Jeremy Paxman.

But Downing Street's interference has annoyed Kensington Tories who say they should be allowed to pick their own candidate themselves without any nudging from the Prime Minister's team.

The call for Downing Street to stay out of the selection process has been backed from former Conservative Party Chairman Lord Tebbit, who said such interference would never have happened in his day.

And Sir Richard Storey, a former newspaper magnate who lives in the Royal Borough, in a letter to this newspaper (see below), has described the action of Tory Party chairman Greg

Shapps action as "a Putin-style grab".

Local blog sites are awash with complaints from Kensington Conservatives who resent "being bunny mothered" by Tory Central Office.

The most-read political blog in the royal borough, From The Hornet's Nest, which has 2,000 views every day, is peppered with comments from locals who are outraged by the interference.

One posted: "It is an abomination that Cameron and Central Office can dictate to Kensington who we must have as our MP. What a cheek."

Another wrote: "The Association should take a stand and tell Central Office to sod off. The idea of having speech writers from Cameron's team and a celebrity footballer and Olympic rower offered to us is worse than an insult."

"What on earth does the Eton set in Conservative HQ think they are up to? Has no one told them that feudalism ended 500 years ago? Kensington is not the gift of a load of chumps who do not know the price of milk", posted another.

Another Kensington resident led the local tide by posting "The only serious contender who can do this job for local residents is Victoria Borwick. Cameron and his team should stop trying to control everything they know nothing about."

Further, by what right does the Party's chairman, Mr Shapps, do a Putin-style grab of the Kensington & Chelsea Conservative Association and usurp its democratic right to select its own candidates and deny local democracy?

I shall be most unlikely to support a Shapps nominee and most certainly will not vote for a party apparatchik.

*Sir Richard Storey Bt CBE
Zetland House W8*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tory Association has democratic right to chose its own candidate

■ A RECENT public opinion poll showed that people regret the narrow experience of MPs.

Even Mr Cameron, speaking recently in the House of Commons, accepted the desirability of MPs having a broad experience.

Yet The Times of February 25th reports that the Conservative Campaign Headquarters intends that one of two party apparatchiks, with no apparent valid experience, should be foisted on to the shortlist of Conservative candidates in Kensington & Chelsea constituency for the General Election.

Plenty to do in Holland Park

WALKS, talks and a chance to get hands-on experience of conservation work in Kensington's Holland Park can all be found in this year's Ecology Service events programme.

There is plenty to do in the 55-acre park which includes semi-wild woodland, formal gardens and sports areas. Walks on offer cover a wide range of topics including: amphibians, bats, bees, birds,

dragonflies and flora.

Once a month there is also an opportunity for residents to get involved in practical conservation work and help maintain the park.

Task Force 4 Nature volunteer days take place on the third Saturday of each month. People keen to volunteer should meet at the Holland Park Cafe at 10.30am and expect to finish work at 3.30pm.

On the first Saturday of each month the Friends of Holland Park organise a bird and nature walk from 9am to 10.30am. People interested in taking park



■ DIGGING DEEP: Standards are often poor in basement conversions such as the one above. In 2013-2014 nine builders died working in such environments.

'We will take action where lives are at risk'

■ FROM PAGE ONE

ton and Chelsea.

"Often it is carried out under existing homes as owners seek to increase their living space without a house move.

"The work is technically-challenging and can carry substantial risk. Standards are often poor and often vulnerable sections of the labour market are recruited".

He added: "Contractors are failing to appoint a competent temporary works engineer to design suitable propping to support excavations and existing

structures.

"Likewise, on many projects, basic safeguards are missing, such as edge protection to prevent falls from height."

In 2013-14 in the UK, 19 builders died after falling from height.

"All too often little thought is given to providing proper welfare facilities for site workers," said Mr Hickman.

"Where we find poor practice that is putting lives at risk we will take action, including stopping work and prosecuting those responsible."

Have your say on basements

ANYONE who wishes to comment on Kensington & Chelsea's Borough Council's new draft Supplementary Planning Document on Basements has until Wednesday, April 1st to do so.

In January the council adopted a new policy for dealing with planning permission for basement development, Policy CL7: Basements, which forms part of the Local Plan.

The council has now produced a draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on basements. This document provides more detailed guidance and advice on adopted Core Strategy Policy CL7: Basements. It is designed to help applicants make successful planning applications and for residents to understand the various issues that the council will consider in assessing planning applications.

It will replace the existing SPD on Subter-

anean Development, 2009.

A six-week consultation began in February and finishes on April 1st..

The Draft Basements SPD and an online response form are available at www.rbkc.gov.uk/planningconsult

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NEWS FROM KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

Boris backs innovation in the High Street

SMALL businesses and community groups on London's high streets are set to receive a share of up to £9 million of funding from the Mayor of London to help revitalise and potentially reinvent the way we use our high streets.

In an innovative move the Mayor has allocated a portion of the funding through crowdfunding website Spacetime, where community groups are able to post their ideas and ask for financial support.

It is the first time the Mayor of a major European city has used a civic crowdfunding website to directly pledge money for community projects. 83 groups submitted ideas and the Mayor will be pledging up to £20,000 each to 17 of these projects.

The grants awarded through the Mayor's High Street

● **Mayor's High Street Fund investing £125,000 in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as part of up to £9 million investment in 42 high streets across London**

● **The first time the Mayor has used a civic crowd-funding platform to directly pledge financial support to local community projects**

Fund today will be invested in 42 high streets across London, including 25 larger borough-led projects and 17 community-led projects. This investment has levered around £20 million of match funding from local authorities and private sector partners.

As well as crowdfunding projects from community groups, the Mayor is funding 25 larger borough-led projects with up to £2 million each, including

£125,000 for the borough to work alongside the Westway Trust, a social enterprise developing space beneath the Westway flyover with activities, facilities and services to support the local community. The project will deliver a temporary building to provide workspace and attract more visitors throughout the week, whilst linking two adjacent high streets. This will act as the first step in a larger regeneration initiative and act as a way to trail and test the ambitions of a forthcoming masterplan. The project will:

● Deliver a new temporary gateway building providing space for young businesses or entrepreneurs

● Develop a new 'street' character for the space under the Westway at ground level, improving pedestrian conditions and wayfinding, encouraging footfall between two adjacent high streets and developing a sense of 'destination'

● Provide 'new-trader' opportunities to complement RBK&C's Market Enterprise Launch Pad

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: "The imagination, enterprise and creativity of Londoners has shone through in the array of ideas that were put forward to the High Street Fund. London's high streets are no longer about retail alone and I am thrilled to be supporting projects that seek to diversify

and unlock opportunities in our most prized urban assets."

The High Street Fund is the latest in a series of funding rounds, which started in 2011 with the Outer London Fund, aimed specifically at helping London's high streets to adapt and thrive. These initiatives are part of the Mayor's £129 million investment in high streets that has already helped 56 high streets across London and attracted £56 million of match funding from public and private sector partners. The £9 million fund has a target to deliver:

- 543 jobs (created or safeguarded);
- support to 920 businesses;
- 52 apprenticeships;
- 34,555 m2 of public space improvements;
- reactivation of 24,446m2 of empty shop space;
- 141 buildings improvements;
- 111 new start-up businesses.

For those who missed out, there is still over £285,000 available in the second round of community-led Spacetime projects. To be considered for support, ideas should be posted on the Mayor's Spacetime page and be actively crowdfunding before the next round of pledges on Monday 29 June.

Local businesses urged: Act now to get a government grant to boost your business with Superfast Broadband

London businesses are being urged to act now to get a government grant of up to £3,000 to upgrade their internet speeds. And with the Government's rollout of superfast broadband predicted to create 20,000 jobs and add £6.3 billion to the UK economy a year by 2024, it's clear that businesses have a lot to gain.

Currently, London is one of only 22 cities where businesses are eligible to apply for connection vouchers worth up to £3,000 boost their broadband.

There are now 3,672 businesses in London who have grants to upgradethanks to the connection vouchers scheme. London is doing well, securing a good share of the 10,000 vouchers issued overall, but local businesses still have time to access their share of the funding.

Businesses like video production house Kinamo, based in Tech City, have already seen the benefits. Kinamo's business means that it is constantly uploading videos for its clients to review - and uploading again after each new round of



editorial changes has been made. That's huge amounts of video data each week. "Our reaction time has to be really quick," explains Kinamo's other co-founder Phil Doherty. Kinamo used broadband connection vouchers to install a wireless solution which gave Kinamo a dedicated connection. "What had taken us eight hours to upload now took us ten minutes," says Doherty. "It was the perfect solution."

Ed Vaizey, Minister for the Digital Economy, said: "Thousands of businesses have already taken up their vouchers and are now enjoying all the benefits of a faster internet connection. I encourage all of London's businesses to do the same and ensure their business is properly equipped to meet the challenges of the digital age."

Superfast broadband will mean you can do business faster, contact customers more quickly and it'll be easier for you to keep up with and install the latest technology - future-proofing your business and making sure you can keep up with your customers' demands - and your competitors.

Each Voucher covers up to £3,000 of installation costs but businesses can also apply as a group to connect bigger or more complicated premises. Once installed, businesses pay the line rental and VAT.

To apply for a broadband grant is easy, businesses simply enter their postcode at www.connectionvouchers.co.uk to check eligibility, choose a supplier and fill in an application form or pick an off the shelf deal with no forms to fill in. Commercial landlords can also apply.



NEWS FROM NICK ...

with Nicholas Paget-Brown, Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

I'm happy serving the residents of Kensington

Leader of Kensington and Chelsea, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, opens up about the race to be the Conservative candidate for Kensington

AS the world and his wife now knows, Sir Malcolm Rifkind is to stand down at the next general election and one of the most desirable parliamentary seats in the country is therefore up for grabs.

There is at least one formidable lady who has already asked me straight out whether I harbour any such ambitions to fill the vacancy.

"Mother, I have no such ambitions," I told her truthfully. "I am perfectly happy serving the residents of Kensington and Chelsea in my present capacity". I went on to remind her that I did fight a Parliamentary seat once in Don Valley - but Don Valley fought back.

In truth, we have plenty of enormously talented local people who have an unrivalled knowledge of issues in Kensington and I really hope that, at last, one of them will get a chance to represent the seat in the Commons.

Over the last week, I have been working on my budget speech, the Council's budget that is. By the time you read this, the Council will have voted on, and hopefully approved our

budget for 2015-16.

Here we are, five years into austerity, fifty million quid down on our grant from central government, but your council tax hasn't gone up a whit, our rubbish is still collected twice a week, all our libraries remain open and we

are one of the few remaining boroughs in the country still meeting the 'moderate needs' of people requiring social care. And all of that while we are busy building new schools, leisure centres and homes for your children and grandchildren. This has been achieved by careful management of resources, making our property assets work harder and saving costs by partnering with our neighbouring boroughs.

So whoever it is that ends up being the Conservative candidate for Kensington is going to be very lucky: not only will they have the chance to represent a beautiful London borough that actually is 'vibrant', they will be dealing with a hard-working and effective Council that is maintaining good services and building for the future. No wonder would-be Tory MPs the length and breadth of the land are looking on wistfully.

● **Whoever it is that ends up being the Conservative candidate for Kensington is going to be very lucky: not only will they have the chance to represent a beautiful London borough that actually is vibrant, they will be dealing with a hard-working and effective council**



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

To contact the Leader of the Council, Cllr Nick Paget-Brown, email theleader@rbkc.gov.uk

Boris is accused of 'misleading' Londoners over the garden bridge maintenance costs



■ THE £60 million garden bridge across the Thames which will require £3.5 million a year maintenance costs

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson has been accused of "misleading" Londoners over the cost of maintaining the £60 million garden bridge across the River Thames.

During a Mayor's Question Time last December, the Mayor declared that Transport for London (TfL) would not enter into an agreement to underwrite the £3.5 million a year costs to maintain the ambitious project.

Last week, on LBC's *Ask Boris* session, the Mayor reiterated that the maintenance costs "would not be borne by the public purse".

But it has transpired that in a letter

dated February 18th, to the Garden Bridge Trust, Fiona Fletcher Smith, Boris' Executive Director of Development & Environment, stated that the Mayor had "agreed in principle" to guarantee the maintenance costs.

A condition of planning permission from Westminster City Council was that a guarantee concerning maintenance cost should be given by TfL/City Hall and this had been forthcoming to speed up the project.

Opponents of the bridge - from Temple to the South Bank - have dismissed the project as "a tourist attraction" with no public access at night or during 12 days a year set aside for

fundraising events. Labour Assembly member John Biggs has accused Boris of "misleading Londoners".

He said: "Boris Johnson has been caught red handed misleading Londoners, promising that maintenance costs won't be borne by the public sector whilst at the same time drawing up plans to do exactly that. This fiasco shows how little Boris Johnson's word is worth. In east London, where we desperately need new river crossings, the Mayor expects people to pay a toll. For the Garden Bridge, a scheme which is little more than a tourist attraction, he is willing for taxpayers to underwrite millions of pounds each year in costs." fundraising events.

Air pollution is big killer

PRESSURE is growing to permanently close Oxford Street to all vehicles including buses and taxis after new data has revealed that air pollution is now London's second biggest killer - causing the deaths of 20 people every day.

Research shows that Londoners are 57 times more likely to be killed by the capital's dirty air than by a road accident.

Figures from the campaign group Clean Air In London have revealed that an estimated 7,500 people are being killed each year by air pollution - far more than the GLA estimate of 4,300 - 144 each week.

The capital's lethal air is killing more than four times the number who die from liver disease.

Only cancer kills more people in London each year. Annual death rates reveal:

Murder - 93
Road deaths - 130
Liver disease - 1,600
Strokes - 2,000
Heart disease - 3,200
Air pollution - 7,500
Cancer - 13,600

With 600,000 vehicles driving into central London each day and 8,765 buses in the capital, transport has turned the city into a killing zone - with the worst blackspots being Oxford Street, Shepherd's Bush, Putney High Street and Merton Road.

The air in Oxford Street is now so bad it is illegal. In January it became the first area of London to breach legal limits set by the EU for permissible annual levels of nitrogen dioxide.

Now GLA Green Party members Jenny Jones and Darren Johnson are calling on London Mayor Boris Johnson to ban all vehicles from Oxford Street.

● By LWN reporter
GEOFF BAKER

"Darren and Jenny believe that Oxford Street should now become entirely pedestrianised," said a spokesman.

"The air quality situation in Oxford Street has become so bad that it must be closed to traffic. The sheer number of vehicles combined with the height of buildings either side means that Oxford Street has become a pollution corridor."

Jenny Jones said the air quality in Oxford Street was "disgraceful" and she is calling on the Mayor to set up an early warning system to protect pedestrians, joggers and cyclists.

"We need emergency measures in the run-up to and during dangerous pollution episodes," she said.

"These should include a smog forecast and alert system that informs the public and particularly vulnerable people such as asthmatics, with more detailed messaging and resources at schools, hospitals and emergency services."

"This could encourage behaviour change to reduce pollution, such as not driving, and reduce harm, such as not doing vigorous exercise near main roads."

The Mayor's office has now made air pollution in the capital a high priority and is to add hundreds more "clean" buses by next year.

"We take air pollution very seriously," said a spokesman.

"Since 2006 we've put 1,200 hybrid buses on London's roads. Hybrid electric buses use a mix of an electric battery pack and a diesel engine for power and this significantly cuts air pollutants. By next year

we will have 1,700 in the fleet, including 600 of the cleanest and greenest bus of its type.

"We have also taken more than 6,000 of the oldest, dirtiest taxis off the roads by introducing London's first taxi age limits. In 2018 we're introducing and even stricter age limit and all newly-licensed taxis will have to be capable of zero emission."

The London Air Quality Network is producing

daily pollution reports online at its website www.londonair.org.uk. The network is managed by the Environmental Research Group at King's College London.

Dr Frank Kelly, of the research group, warned: "Because air pollution is an invisible entity, not many people really understand the challenge that it is having to their own health and to their children's health."

Climbing Everest to help Pimlico swimmers

JESSICA Neil, a physiotherapist who has recently moved to work in paediatrics at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital will be taking on a Himalayan trek and raising money for Pimlico Puffins - a swimming club for people with physical or learning disabilities that is based at the Queen Mother Sports Centre in Westminster.

The 15-day trek - starting on March 19th - will see Jess reach the Everest base camp at 17,655 feet and she has been putting in the training in Hyde Park wearing an oxygen mask to simulate the high altitudes she'll experience.

The money raised will help Pimlico Puffins cover the £1,600 a year needed to provide a bus service to pick up the most vulnerable swimmers from their homes and bring them to the pool. Without the transport, they would not be able to

swim. Her original target was £250 but she has already exceeded that and hopes to be able make a significant difference to the club's fundraising this year.

Jessica Neil said: "I have recently moved to the area and would like to raise money for a fantastic organisation which helps the local community. Anything which helps with the transport costs would make a huge difference."

● Pimlico Puffins, now more than 30 years old, swimming club is a voluntary organisation run entirely by helpers. The club welcomes people with either physical or learning disabilities who want to learn to swim, improve their swimming, or simply to have fun and to gain confidence in the water. As a small swimming club, run by volunteers, the club relies entirely on the generous donations from supporters. free of charge.



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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

Community

City Living, Local Life

ABINGDON

ABINGDON ward councillors have focused attention on supporting small improvements to the local area that would achieve high impact. They contributed towards a review of Abingdon's Conservation Area Policy via the Edwardes Square and Scarsdale Abingdon Association by funding an architectural historian to assist in the review. Councillors also funded a volunteer-maintained weather station in Pembroke Square and match funded the enhancement of gardens surrounding Chatsworth Court Garden by the Earl's Court Road. Councillors also committed to supporting young people via co-ordinating the promotion activities for young people with the sponsorship of a dance class for young adults with disabilities.

BROMPTON & HANS TOWN

AS THIS year we all reflect and commemorate the sacrifice of past generations, £500 was allocated by Hans Town for the Chelsea Society's "Chelsea in the Great War" exhibition, remembering the contribution of both those who lined up to enlist at Duke of York Square HQ and those who stayed at home. Two young apprentices were also employed in a £2,000 memorial restoration of Holy Trinity Church on Cottage Place. Kensington and Chelsea has for hundreds of years provided a welcoming home for a vast array of notable people from around the World. Last Year, Hans Town gave £500 to the Nubian Jak Community Trust to put up a Blue Plaque for one of the most notable of these residents, Frederick Douglass, the African American anti-slavery and civil rights campaigner who stayed in what is now Brompton and Hans Town in 1846.

CAMPDEN

The Campden Ward Society was officially launched in the presence of the Mayor at the time, Cllr Christopher Buckmaster and Cllr Robert Freeman. Since the first meeting in January 2013 they have engaged with 40% of the residents of the ward aged over 65, an increase of 10% since 2013. To increase interest in the project amongst the older residents of Campden Ward more interesting speakers, including Honor Blackman, Lord Malcolm Forbes and local historian Melanie Backe-Hansen were brought in. Residents are also working with the St Mary Abbots Church in reaching out to house-bound isolated people. An e-newsletter has been launched and sent out to councillors, local businesses and members with email addresses.

CHELSEA RIVERSIDE

THE councillors of Chelsea Riverside have funded a number of projects that celebrate the heritage of the area and remember local history. Councillors granted funds towards a plaque in Westfield Park to remember the sacrifices of local residents during World War II, unveiled in February 2014, 70 years to the day when the last bomb fell on the site. They have also supported the Chelsea Society's 'Chelsea in The Great War' exhibition that commemorated the significant role the people of Chelsea played in World War I. More recently, the councillors have funded the Chelsea Festival held on the World's End Piazza for local residents to celebrate the local area.

DALGARNO

PROFESSIONAL life coaching was provided to a number of local residents to help them to realise their ambitions and goals and improve their physical,

City Living, Local Life is a programme in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea launched in 2011, where local people, community leaders and councillors identify local issues that matter and find practical ways to make the area a better place to live. The programme gives small amounts of money and lots of practical support to the best ideas.

The programme is shaped by residents to make a difference to their street, estate, neighbourhood - in fact their local life.

The aim of **City Living, Local Life** is to understand the most important local opportunities and solutions.

There are 18 wards in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, 14 of which have three councillors and four wards have two

cultural, emotional and economic wellbeing. Further to this, the programme is to be sustainable by training up local residents to coach others in the future. "This life coaching course has truly been an enlightening experience for me and it has most definitely shown me the way to a meaningful alternative career. I am truly grateful to the Dalgarno Trust / City Living, Local Life, for offering such an innovative pioneering project for the local community," said a resident.

With City Living, Local Life support, St. Francis Community Church turned their unused, overgrown garden area into a peaceful oasis for residents to relax, contemplate and enjoy. Bringing together two local organisations, the Dalgarno councillors funded the refurbishment of tables at the popular Trevorton Tower Social Club on the Balfour of Burleigh estate. In use for councillor surgeries, children's parties and regular bingo sessions, the tables in the club had become very worn, making them unsuitable for use. Rather than simply replacing the tables, however, they were given a new lease of life by the Goldfinger Factory, a local charitable enterprise that specialises in renovating unwanted furniture.

EARLS COURT

THE Earls Court councillors have focused on activities for young ward residents by supporting the Earls Court Drama Workshop and Earls Court Community Trust.

As part of one of the funded projects, Year 5s at St. Cuthbert with St Matthias Primary School were treated to a workshop based on the Opera Holland Park production of 'Alice in Wonderland'. With enormous enthusiasm and minimal props, the team from Opera Holland Park enchanted children from Mr Abrahams' class; by a third of the way through the workshop the children had learned a song, with associated movements, and were singing in 4-part harmony.

The Earls Court councillors also teamed up with Redcliffe ward councillors to joint-fund "Childhood Memories from War/Childhood Revisited", staged at St. Cuthbert with St Matthias Primary School and Finborough Theatre.

Results from a ward survey of over 700 residents highlighted the local priorities for residents as environmental improvements, reducing reducing isolation among older people and events for families.

GOLBORNE

THE Golborne ward councillors have focused their attention to three main priority areas - maintaining the sense of community through events and celebrations; supporting unemployed people through training and skill development; and arts and cultural activities for all residents.

councillors. Ward councillors work with all those interested, to develop a range of projects - from trying out new schemes to building on projects that have already worked well.

Each ward that takes part in the initiative has a small budget that they can use to help make projects a reality. For wards with three councillors, this is up to £20,000 per year. For those with two councillors, it is up to £14,000. Each area of Kensington and Chelsea is unique, and so are the approaches taken by different wards and the projects supported.

Here we take a look at how the various wards have benefited since City Living, Local Life was introduced.

This has included funding a wide range of community-focused festivals and activities including the Golborne Festival, Farmival 2014, Notting Hill Nurseries Carnival and supporting a locally-focused documentary 'It's In The Game' produced by the London Film Foundation that looks at the Olympic legacy in the area.

Hosted by the Golborne Forum, an estimated 3,000 people attended the family-friendly festival to enjoy live music, dance and food from around the world to celebrate Golborne's vibrant mix of cultures. As well as bringing the Golborne community together the festival promotes the area to visitors to experience first-hand what's great about the area.

Bringing together local green-fingered residents, community gardeners, artists and food enterprises, Farmival 2014 provided a day celebrating organic food growing in the area.

Organised by Golborne-based organisation, Farm The City London, the festival featured young musicians from across London with a range of fun activities for children and adults alike, including Veggie Creature making and yoga.

NORLAND

CHECK out The Notting Hill Post, a local community website with lots of interesting up to date news and information about the area. Notting Hill Post started as Pavlova Diaries over six years ago. It is a Notting Hill based on-line webzine with news and views on what is on in and around the area. Its main aim is to be an upbeat local resource that keeps the community connected.

Avondale Fun Day took place in June 2014. It was a festival and community celebration of Avondale Park, organised by Clarendon Cross Residents' Association, in conjunction with Norland and Notting Dale wards. It was day full of outdoor activities for children and adults who also had the chance to meet get to know each other. Councillors in Norland contributed £3,000 and £300 was allocated to work with The Academy Bar to provide opportunities for older people to meet for lunch.

£3,000 was allocated to work with Aspire2Inspire to deliver a six week employment programme working with young people, particularly on the Henry Dickens Estate.

NOTTING DALE

SILCHESTER Residents' Association were awarded £3,000 by councillors as part of improvements to the internal layout and conditions of their community meeting and social rooms at the base of Frinstead House. The refurbished residents' facilities will be a local resource for both the Association and for residents to hire and use for family events, becoming a focal point for social activities organised by the RA. Thanks to funding from Notting Dale councillors,

pupils from Thomas Jones primary school were able to participate in the Food Explorers' programme in association with the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation.

The Food Explorers is a hands-on food and nutrition education programme for primary students. The goals of the week were to:

- Raise awareness about food, how it is made and where it comes from;
- Encourage students to get excited about planting, eating and cooking;
- Increase the number of students who eat a healthy breakfast;
- Inspire children to be proud of and share their own family's cultural food heritage; and
- Strengthen school links with the local community and parents

As well as beginning to plant in their new edible teaching garden the pupils took to the road to visit Phoenix Farm, Jamie Oliver's Recipease and Whole Foods on Kensington High Street.

REDCLIFFE

HAVING funded a £1000 youth drama project in exploring children's experience of World War One, new projects are being sought to bring the Redcliffe community together.

As the 100th anniversary of The Great War is taking place, and nobody who fought in that war is still alive, councillors allocated the Earl's Court Community Trust £1,000 to educate local youths through drama about the lives past generations lived. Councillors funded a leaflet that details provision of uniformed organisations for young people and an installation performance in Brompton Cemetery.

ROYAL HOSPITAL

FROM street parties and memorials for the Great War to a drop in centre for the homeless, £13,631.74 was allocated for projects last year.

Councillors have recently proposed a survey of the ward that will help discover the priorities of residents and set the agenda for Royal Hospital's City Living, Local Life for the years to come.

West London Churches Homeless Concern, a local charity offering help to the homeless, received £5,000 for a one off capital expenditure: adding a washing machine to its existing services of food, shelter, and dignity-restoring support. To reflect and commemorate the sacrifice of generations passed, £2,000 was allocated for the Chelsea Society's "Chelsea in the Great War" exhibition.

ST HELENS

IN partnership with Notting Dale, St. Helen's councillors have already contributed towards the successful 'Food Explorers' initiative, which took place at Oxford Gardens School, in association with the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation

The Food Explorers week at Oxford Gardens included trips to Phoenix Farm, Jamie Oliver's Recipease and Whole Foods Market for hands on cooking demos and lessons.

STANLEY

COUNCILLORS wanted to involve residents in identifying priorities issues. So a co-produced survey was sent to all households in the ward. As a result, Stanley Ward councillors supported the production of a leaflet for young peoples' uniformed organisations and funded two garden projects in Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. £5,000 was given to the Chelsea and Westminster Health Trust to transform part of the Hospital's garden into a community kitchen garden. Another £3,000 was granted to create an edible garden on the hospital's third floor.

Email you community news to editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

‘Garden in the sky’ residents in housing row

KENSINGTON & Chelsea Borough Council is heading for a showdown with livid residents fighting proposals to demolish and redevelop Chesterton Square and Broadwood Terrace because the council needs more homes and the money.

Residents of the square and terrace above the council’s offices and depot in Pembroke Road are furious that the council wants to tear down the 1960s social housing in a property development aimed at making up shortfalls in homes and in the town hall coffers.

The residents claim that the development will destroy the community and that it is being driven by a plan to build up to 176 “luxury flats” which could be lucratively sold for big money.

But the council says a redevelopment would replace the 116 present homes with 300 affordable new ones and is offering a cash-back bonus to residents whom they promise would be re-homed onsite.

The council says it is “under fierce pressure to provide more housing and to find new income”. It is cash short because of continued cuts in Government funding and is consequently slashing its spending by £15 million this year, for the fifth year running.

It has also warned that due to Government screw-tightening, it is having to dip heavily into its reserves – which will plunge from last year’s balance of £186 million to £105 million by 2018.

Redevelopment of the housing in Pembroke Road would bring much-needed cash to the council and, it says, help sate “the great demand for new housing of all types across the borough”.

But residents are mobilising to form a protest group and they aim to try block the council’s scheme by getting listed status for Chesterton Square and Broadwood Terrace.

“Why seek to demolish a community and homes of historic and social importance for yet another luxury development?” said a spokeswoman for the protestors.

“A strong community is a vital asset today. Isolation and loneliness have gained epidemic proportions in the city and you cannot just recreate a strong community overnight – particularly one that has taken years to develop and which was based on careful, thoughtful and imaginative planning.

“We are very angry about this and the fact that the council has just ignored all of our comments and concerns. They don’t listen and they don’t want to listen. All they care about is money.

“This is an enormous site and its demolition would create maximum disturbance and increase the traffic and pollution in the area.”

In defence of the development, the council says on its website that one of the main reasons for it is “the council’s current financial position”.

In another post it claims: “The Pembroke Road sites are very large and important council assets with a lot of potential. Right now they are badly underused and becoming more so. In addition, Kensington and Chelsea is increasingly short of housing. It is these issues rather than any financial target that is driving this review”.

The council, which claims that the buildings are “deteriorating”, also argues that rather than cut the stock of affordable housing, the development would double it – and allow the building of more than 150 private homes.

“No loss of residential use will be acceptable on this site, in fact an increase in the number of homes, both private and social, is likely to be sought,” says the council.

“Our commitment is to re-provide all the existing social rented housing on the new development.

“Our current proposal is to double the amount of affordable housing from 57 to approximately 116.

“There could also be up to 176 new private homes for sale or rent.”

Residents argue that Chesterton Square and Broadwood Terrace are an aesthetic asset to the area and

● By LWN reporter
GEOFF BAKER

they have applied to the Government’s watchdog for historic buildings for protective status.

“The housing development has been described as an oasis and the gardens in the sky, it has won a number of awards over the years,” say the residents.

“It is much-valued today and it is an example of social housing, now successfully integrated with private ownership, that really works.

“An application has been made to English Heritage for listing of the housing element. Support has been expressed for the application by residents and local societies including the local conservation association, Kensington Society, the 20th Century Society and the Earls Court Society”.

The council says: “We are currently awaiting a decision [from English Heritage] and expect to hear the outcome by the Spring. Once we know the outcome, the selection and formal appointment of the design team will be progressed, so more detailed design and consultation work can then take place.”

The council says if the scheme is approved, all secure tenants will be rehoused, “ideally in a brand new home on the redeveloped estate, or elsewhere in the borough if they prefer”.

It adds: “They will be entitled to a Home Loss Payment of £4,900 plus a Disturbance Payment to cover the reasonable costs of moving home. All resident leaseholders will have their property purchased at the full market value.

“They will also be entitled to an additional ten per cent of the market value up to a maximum of £49,000 and a Disturbance Payment to cover the reasonable costs of moving. In addition the Cabinet agreed the council will develop an offer of an equity share for all resident leaseholders to enable them to purchase and live in one of the new properties on the site. This means the existing mixed community of council tenants and resident leaseholders will be protected and able to continue living on that site, if they so choose.

Tremendous bonus

“Non-resident leaseholders will have their property purchased at the full market value with the owners entitled to a basic loss payment of 7.5 per cent of the value up to a maximum of £75,000 plus the reasonable costs of acquiring a new investment property. Non-resident leaseholders will be entitled to apply to become resident leaseholders if they wish to obtain the same compensation as resident leaseholders”

“Pembroke Road costs a great deal to run and we simply don’t need to continue using much of the depot or offices anymore,” said the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Rock Feilding-Mellen.

“What we do need is new affordable homes and new income to help protect our front line services. If at the same time we can dramatically improve the streetscape and local environment of this corner of the borough that would be a tremendous bonus.

“But we won’t be taking this development forward unless we can be sure we are being fair to our existing tenants and leaseholders.

“We have put together a cast-iron compensation package which responds to the concerns and worries residents have expressed over the last 18 months. We will make sure to protect the strong mixed-community that currently lives there.”

The council pledged “there will be extensive consultation with residents and if the development plans go ahead, up to 116 new affordable homes could be provided on the site, double what is currently there.

“There could also be up to 176 new private homes for sale and rent. In addition, there may be office space and new retail units at ground floor level. The existing nursery will be retained and as part of the design process, the viability of a new school building will be explored.”

Isolation and loneliness have gained epidemic proportions in the city and you cannot just recreate a strong community overnight

Where To Find Your New Local Newspaper

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London News WEEKLY

pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF



Westminster & Pimlico NEWS LWN

pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	99 Wilton Road	Pimlico	SW1V 1DT
Co-op	104-105 Bernick Street	Soho	W1F 0QS
Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	London	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goodge Street	London	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
Co-op	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY



Kensington & Chelsea NEWS LWN

pick up points

Co-op	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB
Sainsbury's Store	158a Cromwell Road	Kensington	SW7 4EJ
Tesco Metro	146-148 High Street	Kensington	W8 6SU
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove	London	W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Rd	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Tesco Super Store	West Cromwell Road	Kensington	W14 8PB
Kensington Central Library	Philimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

LWN

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS &

Fulham Chronicle

pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	51 Townsmead Road	Fulham	SW6 2SY
Sainsbury's Store	Fulham Broadway Retail Centre	Fulham	SW6 1BW
Co-op	254 North End Road	London	SW6 1NJ
Co-op	314 Lillie Road	Fulham	SW6 7PS
Co-op	60 Parsons Green Lane	Fulham	SW6 4HU
Sainsbury's Store	2-3 Kings Mall	Kings Mall	W6 0PZ
Tesco Super Store	180 Shepherds Bush Road	London	W6 7NL
Morrisons	114-116 Shepherds Bush Centre	London	W12 8PP

LWN

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER & PIMLICO

City's youngsters going to the polls to elect their own youth council

THOUSANDS of Westminster youngsters will go on line this week to elect their own council.

City kids between the ages of 11 and 18 will be voting for the Youth MP and deputy Youth MP to represent them on the Westminster Youth Council.

Last year 14,000 of them made their voices heard. They have until midnight on Sunday (March 15th) to vote with the result being announced on Monday, March 23rd.

These are the six candidates and their manifestos:

Aby Murray

THINGS don't have to change the world to be important. I believe any one action that benefits any one person is important. I'm standing to be Youth MP for Westminster because this is our youth, we deserve our say. I want to be your voice.

Enkuush Mergen

I DON'T plan on making any false promises; I just want to help you, help yourself. The fact that there is such a lack of opportunities for young people needs to be addressed. Sure, there are a few activities on, now and again, but is the quality of those activities as

high as they could be?

Marie-Verity Pernthaller

IF YOU elect me I will work hard to make sure that you know about all the opportunities available to you. According to a survey done by the Westminster Youth Council last year, money, fear of crime and getting a job were the main concerns young people raised. I will address these issues by working with schools and through social media.

Mohamed Hammeda

WHAT do you want to be when you get older? Want to be a success? Want to improve your: skills, qualifications and job prospectus? Some young people have big dreams and others are still wondering what theirs will be. That's fine and everyone should be able to be a success, but there's a problem. There are loads of young people not being able to reach those dreams.

Reema Begum-Miah

I BELIEVE that everyone is equal and has a right to succeed in life. The fact that they are young shouldn't be a barrier. We need to work together to make Westminster a better place and safe for everyone, no matter where you come from, religion, race, gender and age.

Semhar Teklu

WE ARE the generation of the future. We can have an impact on the world for better or for worse. There are so many issues that need to be reflected and addressed such as youth unemployment, bullying, the environment and lack of social clubs and they need to be looked into and raise awareness on it.

● For more information on the Youth Elections, Youth Council and other ways to get involved, contact Email: searnshaw@westminster.gov.uk

"A government broadband grant delivered superfast results"

Jake Powley, Director of Kinamo Films



Businesses can now get a grant of up to £3,000 to upgrade to a superfast connection. This pays for the installation costs; you just pay VAT and the monthly line rental. To find out more, visit connectionvouchers.co.uk

BUSINESS IS GREAT
BRITAIN

Writing for the London Weekly News every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur Charlie Pipes Up!



We may lend a hand but we're not social workers

THERE is no doubt that 24,000 people dying of cold in a country that isn't really that cold by world standards is shocking, in fact staggering, but ... and there's a big but here and ... what kind of idiot thinks that it's okay to run a society where you don't even park the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff?

No, as I told Nick Ferrari on LBC Radio last week, some nutter at NICE - whoever they are - is marking out a space for the plumber's van at Beachy Head!

Don't get me wrong, when my tradespeople come across someone who is in trouble at home during a visit of course they will help, what else would they do? And I don't mean just if they're too cold either. We've jumped started cars, rescued pets from trees and under furniture. One time one of our plumbers was flailing around in a loft space for half an hour trying to catch this lady's parrot. And yes, on occasion we've called a doctor, found missing bottles of heart pills and

called 999 when things really looked bad.

We also prioritise heating calls to elderly people and families with young children when it's cold out and demand is high.

But that doesn't mean we need a law that actively says to plumbers and other trades people: "You're not just responsible for getting the taps fixed and the boiler running, you are now the front line of defence, the safety net when all the other social services have failed."

Because that is the same as admitting that looking after vulnerable people's welfare isn't just the preserve of the various social services, but that it's somehow, in law, the role of the plumber, and that's just plain wrong!

Like I've already said, as caring, compassionate human beings plumbers will do the right thing, but making them an official safety net admits the existing net is broken, and is the first step to releasing those whose job it is to catch at risk people from their responsibilities.

No, the best and most important thing a plumber can do when a house is cold, because the heating is down, is fix the boiler, always has been, always will be!

Views expressed are those of the author and no necessarily those of this newspaper



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Ladbroke Grove railway bridge to get makeover

LADBROKE Grove London Underground Bridge needs a facelift.

The multi-coloured panels on the bridge are starting to look tatty and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea are giving residents the chance to choose a new design to replace them.

Council officers were out and about consulting on the proposed new designs on Saturday at a stall under the Westway and beside Sainsbury's Local, 165 Ladbroke Grove, repeating the exercise

on Tuesday. The bridge, which carries the Hammersmith and City line, spans Ladbroke Grove and is on the route of

the Notting Hill Carnival.

For more information on the project contact Terry Oliver, terry.oliver@rbkc.gov.uk



Council supports disabled website

A WEBSITE that collects and publicises information on the accessibility of shops, restaurants, pubs, clubs, public buildings and stations for disabled people, will continue to receive funding from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Disabled Go's website provides access information for a range of buildings, highlighting potential issues for disabled visitors. It aims to maximise independence and choice for disabled people in accessing their local area and the places everyone wants to visit.

Previously the website focussed on people with mobility issues but now provides a range of access information for people with other disabilities and impairments as well.

Kensington and Chelsea was one of the first councils to support this project and today many other boroughs both in and outside London subscribe to the scheme.

Developed by disabled people for disabled people – Disabled Go is unique among national access information providers because it:

- Visits and surveys every venue on its website in person

- Use a survey method that over 800 groups of disabled people have contributed to
- Has a national network of steering groups that guide its work and support the continuous development of its service
- Offers a standardised service – from Aberdeen to Portsmouth its trained surveyors use the same high standards and pan-disability survey template to ensure that all its guides are accurate, reliable and presented in a user-friendly format.

Councillor Gerard Hargreaves, Cabinet Member for Voluntary Organisations and Resident Engagement, said: "I am very pleased that at a time of shrinking budgets we are able to continue our support to Disabled Go. Its website is an excellent source of practical information for disabled people about access to a wide range of commercial and public buildings in the borough."

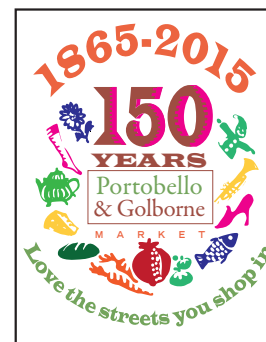
More information and details of access to 125,000 places of interest in the UK and Republic of Ireland are available at www.disabledgo.com

Kensington community

○ GREEN fingered volunteers are needed at the St Charles wellbeing centre to create an eternal herb garden. Works starts on Wednesday, March 26th and then every Wednesday, 2 pm to 4 pm. All ages welcome and all materials provided.

○ A new youth cafe has been set up at the St Charles open age cafe. Open to youngsters aged 12 to 14, there will be cooking lessons and the chance to talk about health concerns in a confidential space. Further details are available from Marie Mulcahy on 0779 221 6159 or by emailing mulcahymarie@yahoo.co.uk

■ IF you have an event you want to publicise send details to www.editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk



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Holland Park student wins coveted culinary prize

● TABAN IS YOUNG CHEF OF THE YEAR

TALENTED young chefs from west London cooked against the clock to compete for the coveted prize of Young Chef of the Year 2015.

Taban Roosta, who is in Year 9 at Holland Park School, took the title with her expertly cooked menu of chicken roulade stuffed with fresh tarragon and pork sausage with rocket and a balsamic reduction, followed by tonka beans panna cotta with orange cake and cherry coulis.

All the competitors put in hours of practice and competed at their own schools for a place in the finals. Taban said the competition had inspired her to do more cooking at home. She said, "It was awesome. I got some really good tips on presentation. I'm really proud of what I made and that people really liked it. I didn't expect to win. I'll cook the dish again when I have visitors at home."

David Chappell, Associate Head of Holland Park School, said: "We are incredibly proud of our students' culinary achievements and delighted to see Taban take first prize in this prestigious competition. Her skills in the kitchen are quite simply phenomenal and I don't doubt she may one day trade up to a Michelin Star!"

The final took place at Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College's training restaurant on Thurs-

day, February 26th.

The competitors were judged by local star chefs Danny Bohan of the River Café, Anna Lotito of Mamma Anna & Co and Gerrard Madden of Fulham Football Club. All said that every finalist cooked top-quality, restaurant-standard food.

Anna Lotito, said: "It was such a pity only one student had to win as everyone was at an outstanding level. The presentation, flavour and cooking skills using meat and fish is not something to be taken for granted. They were focused, precise – and very polite."

All the finalists won a trophy, a Westfield London gift card and a River Café cookbook.

The ten runners-up, who also all produced top quality meals, were:

- Tyrenne Hawkins of The Bridge AP Academy
- Salsabeel Montague of Fulham Cross Girls' School
- Isabella Vranic of Godolphin & Latymer School
- Jack Fernandes and Brandon Da Silva of Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College
- Reece Clarke and Jack Bannister of Holland Park School
- Rianna Aniaker - Griffiths and Luca Carozzi of The Moat School
- Heidi Clark of Woodlane School.



■ TABAN'S winning dish - chick roulade stuffed with fresh tarragon and pork sausage



■ YOUNG CHEF OF THE YEAR: Taban Roosta (left) pictured with runners-up Reece Clark and Jack Bannister (also of Holland Park) with Food Technology teacher James Newell.

Win a football kit for your primary school

CALLING all primary schools in Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham.

The London Weekly News is running a competition to win a full kit with four footballs. If you have a school team all you have to do is send in a photo of the team and tell us in no more than

100 words why you should win it. Our sports staff will choose the best and we will arrange for a former England player to visit your school and present the kit.

All those who enter will win a football. Send your photo and reason why you should win it by email to: editorial@londonweeklynews.

CAN BRAIN STIMULATION MAKE YOU HAPPY? - CALL FOR STUDY VOLUNTEERS

Researchers at Goldsmiths University are recruiting volunteers to take part in a locally approved study.

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Christ Church Bentinck Primary School celebrating diversity of community

PUPILS, parents and staff from Marylebone's Christ Church Bentinck Primary School came together to celebrate the diversity of their community last week - raising an impressive total of over £800 in the process.

The Church of England school, which had an excellent Ofsted report in 2013, caters for 235 children from ages 3 to 11, has hosted its annual International Evening for the past thirteen years, both as a fundraiser and as a means of highlighting

Words and photos by PATRICK MAGUIRE

the wide range of backgrounds catered for.

Families packed out the school hall to sample international cuisine and watch performances from pupils and staff - who brought the house down with an impeccably choreographed dance by Don Rae, to Bruno Mars' Uptown Funk, earning them the plaudits of local MP Karen Buck...who took to Twitter to pay tribute to the school's "top teachers".

The climax of the evening was a bumper raffle, with prizes including a signed Arsenal Ladies shirt, a Kindle Fire tablet worth over £100, and family tickets for the London Eye.

Big celebration

Speaking on the night, Christ Church Bentinck Headteacher Sandra Tyrell paid tribute to the hard work of those involved and said that the event was a great example of community values.

She said: "Our international evening is always a huge success, and it's a big celebration of the diverse community that we have here."

"It's an important fundraiser for the school. We charge a small ticket fee for entry, and the families provide the food from all the different continents - tonight we had bryani, curries, fajitas, noodles - a great reflection of the community that we serve here."

"It was good to see Karen Buck and members of the council here to provide us with support.

We've had raffle prizes donated from local businesses, charitable organisations, staff have donated prizes - people have come together for our big community event."



■ **HAPPY FACES:** The event celebrated the diversity of the school community with families packing out the school



■ **ABOVE:** Guests sampled international cuisine and a range of exotic entertainment. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The school, bedecked with flags from around the world, is packed out



■ **DRAGON ROUTINE:** Year 4 children staged a dance evoking Asian culture



■ **GENEROUS GIFTS:** Headteacher Sandra Tyrell (below) oversaw the prize draw with prizes donated by local businesses.



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London's housing crisis: only 18,750 new homes built last year

● OPTION EVENT ATTRACTS BIG CROWD

OVER 800 Londoners attended an event organised by the capital's leading landlords, to help people find a home to rent, buy or exchange.

Led by Peabody, which provides a home for one in every 100 Londoners, the Southwark-based event brought together a range of experts showcasing the different housing options available for those who need to move for work, family or retirement reasons, or who are interested in buying a home.

Those attending had the opportunity to meet housing partners representing 206,000 homes including, Family Mosaic, L & Q, Affinity Sutton and Amicus Horizon, the UK's main exchange providers House Exchange and HomeSwapper and the Mayor of London's housing mobility schemes; Share to buy and Housing Moves.

Mutual exchange was recognised as the quickest way to guarantee a move, with Housing Exchange reporting a 324 per cent increase in registrations following the event.

The event coincided with the release of new government figures which show that just 18,750 homes were built in London in 2014, more than a 37,500 shortfall on the 56,400 experts predict is needed every year to keep pace with new households forming.

Stephen Howlett, Peabody Chief Executive, said: "London's housing crisis can only be tackled by driving up the supply of new homes across all tenures. We're doing our bit by building 8,000 new homes to rent and buy, and also freeing up existing homes for people who need to move."

With thousands of Londoners living in overcrowded or unsuitable conditions, and others living in homes which are too large for their changing needs, this event has really helped raise awareness of new opportunities and advice to help people find their ideal home."



Alison Muir, Head of Neighbourhoods at Peabody said: "This event was incredibly well received and the fantastic turnout shows how important it is to keep residents informed about all of the housing options and opportunities available to them. By having several key providers in one room; we hope it will help encourage lots of future moves."

● Peabody has been creating opportunities for Londoners since 1862, when it was established by the American banker and philanthropist, George Peabody. Their mission is to ensure that as many people as possible have a good home, a real sense of purpose and a strong feeling of belonging.

They work solely in London, with a presence in the majority of London boroughs, owning and managing

around 27,000 homes, providing affordable housing for over 80,000 people. The development pipeline of 8,000 new homes across the capital means that Peabody will provide a good home to one in 100 Londoners.

As well as bricks and mortar, Peabody provides a wide range of community programmes for residents and neighbourhoods, including help with employment and training, health and wellbeing projects and family support programmes.



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Skyscraper race raises £250k for Shelter

CELEBRITIES Shayne Ward and George Clarke joined the ranks of nearly 1,000 runners to race up London skyscraper, Tower 42, in support of housing and homelessness charity, Shelter.

Now in its seventh year, Vertical Rush retained its title as the UK's tallest and toughest tower-running challenge with 10 top ranked athletes taking to the stairs of Tower 42 to compete in the Vertical World Circuit of tower-running events, which stretch from Brazil to Beijing.

The elites included 73 year old Orival Martins - the oldest person to ever attempt Vertical Rush - who flew

all the way from São Paulo in Brazil to take part. In spite of his jetlag, Orival still managed to finish with an impressive time of 11 minutes 52 seconds.

Even the celebrity runners were feeling ultra-competitive with George Clarke climbing all 932 steps of Tower 42 in just 9 minutes and 29 seconds, narrowly beating Shayne Ward by a mere 77 seconds.

Professional football freestyler Ash Randall also drew looks of awe with his ball skills, as he managed to balance a football on his neck to the top of the 600ft tower.

Looking to raise a massive £250,000, this year's race will make a huge difference to Shelter's emergency helpline as it struggles to keep up with growing demand.

Amazing adrenalin rush

Shayne Ward said: "I can't believe that I got up there so quickly as a first-timer - my legs are definitely going to be paying the price for it tomorrow! But it was an amazing adrenaline rush reaching the top."

George Clarke said: "This is the second time that I've been daring enough to take on Tower 42, and so I'm chuffed that I managed to bag myself a decent time. But I am even more delighted to be working with Shelter again to help them be there for the thousands of families facing homelessness right now."

Campbell Robb, chief executive of Shelter, said: "It's been amazing to see so many people geared up and ready to take on the UK's tallest stair-running challenge for Shelter today. Having done it twice it myself, I know just how tough it is!"

"All of the money raised by our incredible runners will allow us to be there for even more families fighting to keep their home. Our advisors can make the difference between a family losing their home and keeping it - so we're extremely thankful to everyone who's taken part."



■ WE DID IT: Celebrities Shayne Ward and George Clarke after climbing the 932 steps of London's tallest building, Tower 42, to raise money for the homeless



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Animal lover the Queen to visit Battersea Dogs' Home



■ **DOG LOVER:** HM The Queen in the 1960s arriving at Liverpool Street Station with four of her corgis.
Photo: Geoffrey White/Associated Newspapers/REX

and Harry's hoping for some good publicity too!

By Geoff Baker

HE is the Chelsea Pensioner of the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home and next week when The Queen comes to visit he'll be hoping to be Ma'am's best friend.

Poor Harry the nine-year-old Staffie currently holds the title of Battersea's least-wanted dog.

Of all of the 5,400 dogs that the world's most-famous animal shelter re-homes each year, Harry is the one that everybody passes by – and by the time Her Majesty arrives next Tuesday (March 17th) he'll have been at Battersea for more than 100 days. The average stay is only 29.

This will be only the third time that The Queen has visited the dogs' home. She last visited in 1991, when she opened new kennels, and that's what she will be there to do again, officially opening 56 new kennels to add to the 258 that Battersea has for the capital's un-

wanted dogs and the 70 pens it keeps for discarded cats.

But Britain's most-famous animal lover, and Battersea's royal patron, is not expected to be planning to take another dog back to her family of four corgis and dorgis at the palace as she has recently revealed that she is of an age now when one does not take on more pets.

That's a blow to Harry, who so dislikes the company of other dogs that Battersea has just placed him with a foster family as he waits, and waits, to be somebody's someone to love.

"Harry is an affectionate old boy who came to us as a stray and who is unfortunately finding kennel life a bit tough," said a Battersea spokeswoman.

"He is quite set in his ways but he's eager to please and to learn. He's looking for new owners to help him learn some

TURN to page 14



■ **WILL publicity from HM The Queen's visit to Battersea help Harry, currently the dog who has been there longest, to find a new home?**

LWN
ROYAL
SPECIAL

Inside London's new weekly



New image of the Queen for our coins
page 15

The unsung hero of Comic Relief

page 16



Westminster & Pimlico News (established 1857) ♦ Chelsea News (established 1857)
♦ Kensington News (established 1869)

ROYAL LONDON

Royal visit to Battersea Dogs' Home

Battersea's royal patron grew to love dogs as a child

FROM page 13

owners to help him learn some basic manners and boundaries, but he loves to please his handlers and with some consistency and a cuddle we know that Harry will settle into home life nicely."

Harry has had a long time of rejection possibly because so many people believe that Staffies are aggressive. As a recent report in this newspaper revealed, Staffordshire bull terriers are being increasingly and illegally bred by backstreet breeders force-farming the dogs that are considered to be status dogs for people who want to look threatening.

But Battersea says the public perception of Staffies has got it all wrong.

"This much-maligned breed deserves a better deal," say staff at the rescue home. "Contrary to reports in the media, they are softer than you might think. The Kennel Club itself describes them as extremely reliable, highly intelligent and affectionate, especially with children.

"In fact, due to their gentle behaviour and affinity with children, they are often described as 'the nanny dog'."

Heartstrings

However, The Queen is not looking for a nanny. But it will be hard for this great animal-lover to pass without some tugging on her heartstrings among the new residents who are the latest in the more than three million animals that Battersea has homed in its 155 years.



■ A COIN minted in 2002 to celebrate Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee depicted her with a favourite corgi

The Queen has had pet dogs for almost all of her life. When she was just three her uncle, the then Prince Of Wales, gave her her first dog, a Cairn terrier.

But it's corgis who have been her dearest love, ever since she first fell for the breed - which Welsh folklore has it were the mounts that fairies would ride into battle - when playing as a child in Hyde Park with one owned by Viscount Weymouth, later the Marquess of Bath. In 1933, after some pestering, her father got the family's first corgi, called Dookie, and when Her Majesty was 18 she was given her own, whom she named Susan.

Susan was the first of some 30 corgis which The Queen has owned. She has also had labradors, a golden retriever, a cocker spaniel and a shih-tzu, but it's corgis that have become synonymous with the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Susan even went on The Queen's honeymoon with the Duke of Edinburgh, who will be accompanying Her Majesty on the Battersea visit, and like all of the royal corgis since, was only ever fed the freshest - not canned - food.

At Battersea they get through 32 tonnes of biscuit each year to feed the unwanted dogs. At the palace, Willow and Holly the corgis and Candy and Vulcan the dorgis dine

a bit differently.

"One day they'll get chuck steak, boiled and served with chopped cabbage and rice, the next day they'll have poached chicken or liver," re-



■ CORGI COMPANION: HM The Queen arrives at Heathrow Airport in the back of a chauffeur driven car with one of her dogs

Photo: TODAY/REX

vealed one former royal chef.

The royal pets are walked every morning by a footman. They bound into The Queen's room when she rises for breakfast and she walks them every day after lunch. At bedtime, they each sleep in wicker baskets that are raised off the ground to avoid draughts. When they die, they are buried in a special corgi cemetery at Balmoral.

Over the years they have become as symbolic of The Queen as her crown. In 2002, to mark Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee, a silver crown was minted depicting The Queen with a corgi on her lap and Monty even got to be a movie star - when he appeared to an audience of billions alongside The Queen and actor Daniel Craig in the famous James Bond skit produced for the London

Olympics.

Poor old Harry has never even appeared in a selfie, let alone in a movie, but he's still hoping that his winsome portrait in Battersea's gallery of "owners wanted" will attract anyone who has a heart - especially before the surge of new, younger animals comes to Battersea at any moment. For it's around now that the dogs' and cats' home steals itself for the usual intake of Christmas presents with whom people have become bored.

But with such a profile-raising and promotional visit from The Queen next week, the renewed attention may win him someone yet.

To see all about Harry and the other dogs and cats now needing a loving home, go to www.battersea.org.uk

WHERE TO SEE YOUR FAVOURITE ROYAL

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

Tuesday, March 10th

● **The Princess Royal**, as Royal Patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

● **The Duchess of Cornwall**, as Patron, will launch the Big Lunch 2015 at Clarence House.

Wednesday, March 11th

● **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Freeman and Livyman of the Fishmongers' Company, will attend the Court Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall EC4.

● **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, will attend receptions for winners of the gold standard of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St James's Palace.

● **The Princess Royal**, as Chancellor of the University of London, will attend the International Programmes Graduation Ceremony at the Barbican Centre EC2.

● **The Princess Royal**, as Warden of the Fishmongers' Company, will attend a Court Dinner for Masters and Clerks of the Great Twelve Livery Companies at Fishmongers' Hall EC4.

● **The Princess Royal**, as President on the Carers' Trust, will attend a reception at the Royal Horse Guards Hotel, Whitehall Court SW1.

Thursday, March 12th

● **The Prince of Wales**, as President of the Royal

College of Music, will attend the annual awards ceremony at the college at Prince Consort Road, South Kensington.

Saturday, March 14th

● **The Princess Royal**, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, will attend to Scotland v England international at Twickenham Stadium.

Monday, March 16th

● **The Earl of Wessex**, as Honorary Livyman of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers, will attend the Royal Charter Banquet the Guildhall, Gresham Street EC2.

Tuesday, March 17th

● **The Queen**, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will open new kennels at Battersea Dogs' and Cats' Home SW8.

● **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Admiral and Member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, will attend the opening of the Bicentenary Exhibition at the Roundtree Tryon Galleries, Bury Street SW1.

● **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Sports and Exercise Medicine, will present the Prince Philip Gold Medal at a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

● **The Earl of Wessex**, as Honorary Member of the Royal Automobile Club, will attend the Jesters Club Annual Dinner in Pall Mall.

● **The Countess of Wessex**, as Patron of Shooting Star Chase, will attend a reception and organ recital at Kensington Palace.

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ROYAL LONDON

New image of the Queen to go on coins

Is there a fortune at the bottom of your purse?



BEFORE you use that 50p in your pocket to buy a packet of crisps in the pub tonight, have a good look at it first – as you could be parting with £120.

As a new head of The Queen on coins has just been unveiled by the Royal Mint, everyone is being urged to check their change as there could be a windfall in that purse.

The Royal Mint advises that the public keeps a special eye out for the 2009 50p which it issued to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. On the tails side it features a pagoda encircled by a vine and if you have one of the only 210,000 minted, best pay on a card for those crisps because the coin is worth at least £120.

And it's not such a long shot that might find one in your change – the Royal Mint says that one in every 300 people will find the Kew coin in their pocket at some time.

But there's even rarer – and more valuable – coins to be found in an old handbag yet.

More rare than the Kew coin are a couple of other 50ps. Look out for the 1992 coin minted to mark the UK presidency of the EC Council of Ministers. Only 109,000 were issued and although it is the old size 50p and was demonetised in 1998, collectors would still like to get their hands on one on eBay.

Also worth putting up on eBay if you find one is the 2012 50p which was issued to mark the swimming Olympics of the 2012 London Games. The original design of the tails side had waves obscuring a swimmer's face. Although it was re-designed to make the swimmer image clearer, some of the first design are still in circulation and worth a bob or two.

Check your 20p pieces too. In 2009 the Mint changed the date on coins around, switching it from tails to the head side. But 100,000 20ps were minted in error without the date on either side – it will be worth at least £100 if you've got one.

By Geoff Baker

Even better, go through all of those 2p coins that you've kept in a jar and have a good look at any minted in 1983. That was the year when, after a decade of decimalisation, the Government decided to stop printing 'New Pence' on the coin and put 'Two Pence' instead. If you find a 1983 2p marked 'New Pence', put it somewhere safe as it is worth £700.

But for a chance to cash in rare change for really big money you need to go back to the old money, get up in the attic or down the back of an ancient sofa for pre-decimal coins. What you're looking for is a 1933 penny.

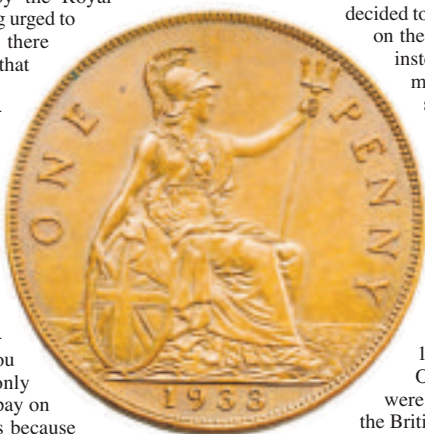
Only a handful of pennies were minted in 1933; one is in the British Museum and another in the Royal Mint Museum. A few more were buried under the foundation stones of a couple of churches and the University of London building in

Bloomsbury. In 1970, thieves dug under the foundation stone of the Church of The Cross in Middleton, Yorkshire, and lifted the penny put there. It has never been found, so it is out there somewhere – with a value of at least £80,000 on it.

Rarer still, and worth an even bigger windfall, is a gold sovereign minted in 1936 to mark the coming coronation of King Edward VIII. But in 1936 the king abdicated and the coins were never issued – all except two. One is still somewhere unknown. The other sold at auction last year for £516,000.

But for the really big money – and the coin least likely in the entire world to be found in any wallet without it being extremely noticeable – we need to look for The Queen's head printed on a dollar coin from the Royal Canadian Mint in 2007. Only five were made and The Queen has one of them.

A few things will make it obviously the find that it is – on the tails side it bears maple leaves, it is made of pure gold and it's not just 'a' dollar coin but a one million dollar face value coin. One of four 'in circulation' sold at auction in 2012 for £2.6 million.



■ 1993 PENNY only a handful were minted

The other peculiarity of the coin that will make it somewhat distinctive to anyone with big enough pockets to carry it, is the weight – officially recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest coin, it weighs 3,215 troy oz or just over 15 stone.

Whilst the chances of finding any such thing dropped in the back of the car are zero to minus infinity, there's hope yet for rare coin hunters who head down to HMS Belfast at her mooring at The Queen's Walk.

Last month The Royal Mint announced the release of a £2 coin to commemorate the role of the Royal Navy in World War One. The Royal Mint deliberately made it to be rare, by minting only 100 of



■ CELEBRATING the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew - the 2009 50p piece and the 1992 coin marking the UK presidency of the EC Council



■ THE gold sovereign minted to mark the planned coronation of King Edward VIII. He abdicated and the coins were never issued

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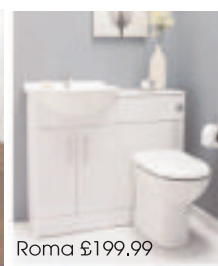
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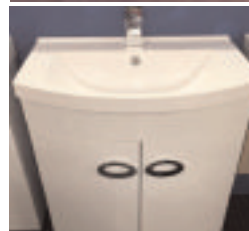
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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

As the Red Nose team head for £1 billion

The unsung heroine of Comic Relief

By Geoff Baker

THIS year it's the big one; the biggest, reddest one of them all. For this year's Red Nose Day could mark the day when Comic Relief achieves an astonishing feat – of raising £1 BILLION since it all began 30 years ago.

What a difference a day makes.

So far, since Comic Relief was launched on Christmas Day 1985 with a report from a refugee camp in the Sudan screened on Noel Edmonds's Late Late Breakfast Show, big-hearted people have raised a total of £960 million.

If this Friday's Red Nose Day follows its own trend – £100 million raised in 2013, £108 million raised in 2011 – then the best idea in the history of comedy will pass the billion mark.

Whilst it is not for scruffs like me to teach David Cameron or Ed Miliband how to suck eggs, in the light of this highly-probable achievement one would have thought it blindingly-obvious to whomever is in Downing Street after the election that knighthoods should be handed out at The Queen's Birthday Honours in June to the founders of Comic Relief and its wacky child Red Nose Day – Richard Curtis, Ben Elton and Lenny Henry, the three wise men who taught a nation to give a care for a laugh.

But another big gong should go to an unknown London charity worker, Jane Tewson – for she was the inspirational woman who began it all.

Few have ever heard of Jane Tewson. Even fewer have heard that the idea for Comic Relief came to her after she died and had an out-of-body experience.

Hers is a story as remarkable as the charity movement that she inspired.

Live shows

It started in Soho in 1981. Jane, a severe dyslexic who had attended lectures at the University of Oxford whilst working as a cleaner in the city, set up the London Charity Projects to help Soho's homeless. To raise funds, she persuaded comedians, musicians and other performers to create live shows in aid of the needy.

In 1985, inspired by the humanitarian triumph of Bob Geldof's Band Aid, Jane went to the Sudan to work in a refugee camp and there she contracted cerebral malaria – and died.

She was pronounced clinically dead for some moments. As doctors around her anguished over the lack of drugs in the camp which could have saved her, Jane had the strangest sensation of leaving her body and looking down on the scene.

But some higher power had something more in store for her yet and she saw herself re-enter her body. She came round and survived.

Propelled by the strangeness of the miraculous experience, Jane returned to London and met up with Richard Curtis with an idea.

As it happens with good ideas, Curtis had been thinking on similar lines since he too had had a life-changing experience whilst visiting Ethiopia during the famine.

"I remember seeing a child being weighed in a pair of suspended plastic pants," he said.

"She was so thin that she fell through the left hand hole, landed on the floor in a heap, and everyone fell about laughing.

"I thought it extraordinary that they still had the capacity and desire to find something funny in such tragic circumstances."

After talking with Jane and remembering the Ethiopian scene, the vision of Comic Relief was born.

"I thought that laughter would be a good idea for raising money and the best way would be to get my friends to be as funny as could be," said Curtis.

The concept of persuading everyone to wear a plastic red nose was initially dismissed as "an atro-



■ JANE Tewson

cious idea because it would just remind everyone of Italian clowns", but Curtis and his comedy pals persisted and tens of millions of noses have been sold since.

This year, the Tube, trains, buses, offices, schools and pavements of the capital will be full of people wearing red noses, there are nine new noses to buy for Comic Relief's 30th year.

And as this is the big year, Comic Relief is throwing everything they've got at the TV marathon fundraiser on Friday when both BBC1 and BBC2 will be turned over to the best of British

fund-raising, which will be screened live for the first time from The London Palladium.

All of the big stars are turning out for the show, which traditionally smashes viewing figures – they've even got James Bond, as Daniel Craig will be appearing in a special 007 film made for Comic Relief.

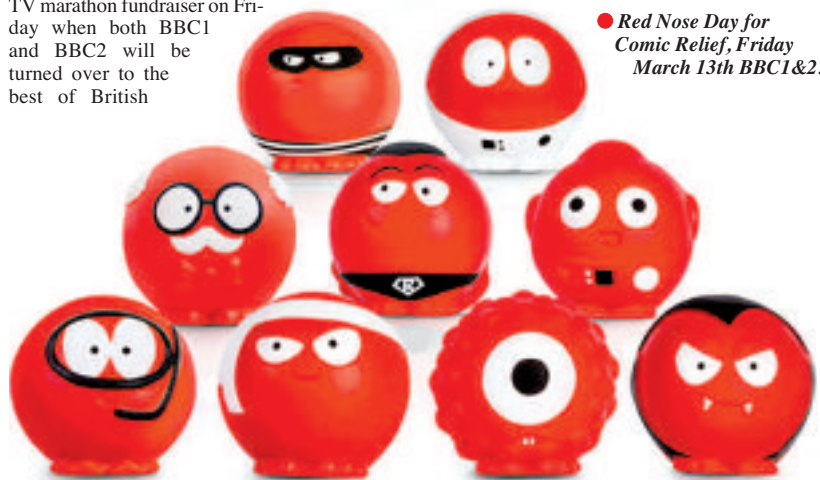
Lenny Henry, Davina McCall, Claudia Winkleman, David Walliams and John Bishop will host the Red Nose Day fundathon, which will include highlights like Rowan Atkinson reviving Mr Bean for the first time in eight years, Dawn French returning in a one-off Vicar Of Dibley and Walliams, McCall and Bishop teaming up with Eddie Izzard to recreate Monty Python's famous Four Yorkshiremen sketch.

Unique appearance

There will also be the finale of celebrity Bake Off, the climax of The People's Strictly, Sam Smith singing, a Phoenix Nights special from Peter Kay, Dermot O'Leary climaxing a 24-hour dancing marathon – which the public can witness by going along to the piazza at New Broadcasting House – and a unique appearance from this year's man of the moment, Professor Stephen Hawking performing with Walliams as Lou the carer in the return of Little Britain.

As ever, the public's part is crucial to Comic Relief's success. This year's theme is Make Yourself Funny For Money – painting and decorating your face, take a Selfie, text to 70011 to donate £1 and get a link back from Comic Relief to where you can post your face on a site alongside the famous.

And hopefully at some time during the night a doubtless-delighted cast of stars will announce that Comic Relief is now the billionaire of giving.



● Red Nose Day for Comic Relief, Friday March 13th BBC1&2.



■ DESERVING OF A KNIGHTHOOD: Richard Curtis, Lenny Henry and Ben Elton



■ THE cast of the award-winning West End musical Jersey Boys showed off their toe-tapping skills to encourage people across London to take part in the first ever Comic Relief Danceathon.

Cast members Michael Watson, Jon Boydon, Matt Nalton and Stuart King buttoned up their blazers and posed with Red Noses to lead the charge in support of the campaign. Joined by the London cast in vests, trainers and sweatbands, all 12 cast members stretched and struck a pose to warm up for Danceathon. Jon Boydon, who plays Tommy DeVito, said: "Red Nose Day helps amazing people all over the UK and across Africa, and has such an element of fun to it that people aren't scared to get involved and do something ridiculous. Winner of 55 awards, including the Olivier Award for Best New Musical, Jersey Boys is at the Piccadilly Theatre in London, currently booking through to 25th October 2015.



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WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

We're like an old married couple

JOHN Torode and Gregg Wallace may have spent the past decade hosting MasterChef together, but don't expect them to hang out, Ant and Dec-style, when the cameras stop rolling.

"We're like an old married couple who travel away from each other all the time," says Torode, when asked why their partnership works so well.

"We don't really spend time together. I have no idea where he is when we're not filming, we have very different lives, different tastes, we listen to different music, I'm cool and he's a bit old and dodderly..."

The pair "never try and impose our views on each other", adds the 49-year-old, who returns for a new instalment of the BBC One cookery show this month.

"The only things he imposes upon me are his stupid jokes."

As always, viewers can look forward to "a couple of twists and turns" in series 11, which features 40 amateur cooks competing over 24 episodes.

The most notable twist is a reinvention test, which sees heat-stage hopefuls taking the main ingredient from their signature dish and turning it into a brand new plate of food.

If they impress the judges, and get through another two-course challenge, they'll make it into the quarter finals, and finally, at the end of the gruelling seven weeks, 2015's champion will be crowned.

Torode, who grew up in Maitland, in Australia's New South Wales, says he still gets inspired by the home cooks who enter.

"This year, more than ever, we've seen such a diverse group of cooks with really different ideas, with food from all around the place - from people cooking street food to really elegant fine dining, to brilliant stuff from Austria and Germany, through to Japan, Italy, France, China, Malaysia, Russia."

Torode also has MasterChef to thank for his romance with actress and cookery writer Lisa Faulkner, who he met when she competed in - and won - Celebrity MasterChef in 2010.

"She's such an amazing cook. She's so great and so generous, and she's pretty good-looking as well. The old man did all right!" says Torode.

The TV judge would never critique his former contestants' food, however - including Faulkner's.



"Can you imagine me going to somebody's house, or to Lisa, and saying, 'Well I think this would work, maybe if you did this...' That would be the rudest thing in the whole world."

Torode is also working on a new book, My Kind Of Food, due out later this year, "about the food I cook at home - clams and spaghetti, really good salad, curry and pies".

And later this year, he'll celebrate his 50th birthday. The chef, who has four

children from two previous relationships, insists he's not bothered about the landmark birthday.

"Turning 40, I hated. Turning 50, I'm fine about. I am what I am. I don't feel old, I feel great," he says.

"I'm very, very happy, I'm very privileged to do things like MasterChef. I'm travelling the world, writing books. I'm doing all right."

Masterchef starts this week on BBC1



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Beef Carpaccio with pickled Ramsons and shaved Berkswell

NEAR the end of the wild garlic season, I love to pickle the stems, bulbs and buds. Last year, I did cider vinegar and Japanese rice vinegar versions, which I still have now in my store-room fridge.

Serves 4

400g good-quality beef fillet, trimmed of any fat and sinew

Good-quality extra virgin olive oil

Some shavings of Berkswell cheese or Parmesan

Flaky sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the pickled ramsons

The stems and bulbs from 50-60 leaves of wild garlic

200ml cider vinegar

½tbsp caster sugar

1tsp salt

15 black peppercorns

½tsp fennel seeds

At least a couple of days before, but preferably a week, make the pickled ramsons. Bring the vinegar, sugar, salt, peppercorns and fennel seeds to the boil, then leave to cool. Pack the stems into a sterilised preserving jar or plastic container and pour the vinegar mixture over.

Wrap the beef in clingfilm and twist the ends until it has become a tight tubular shape. Place it in the freezer for about an hour to firm it up, but don't let it freeze. Remove the clingfilm and with a razor-sharp carving knife, slice the beef as thinly as possible and lay each slice on to a large sheet of clingfilm.

Cover this with another layer of clingfilm and with your hand or a rolling pin, carefully flatten the meat so it becomes as thin as possible. Lay the slices on to large plates, so that the serving area of the plate is completely covered. Cover with clingfilm and store in the fridge until required.

To serve, season the beef with a couple of turns of freshly milled black pepper and with sea salt. Drizzle on a little rapeseed oil and finally scatter on the pickled ramsons and cheese.



■ **A RASPBERRY G&T** before brunch will get the conversation flowing on Mother's Day and taste so much better if you up the ante with a bottle of Martin Miller's Gin (£26, 70cl, Sainsbury's). One of the world's most awarded gins (Good Housekeeping Institute's overall winner 2014), it has gentle botanical aromas lifted by juniper and lemon on the finish.

Half fill a high-ball with ice, add 50ml Martin Miller's Gin to 5ml Monin Raspberry Syrup and top up with tonic water. Squeeze a lime wedge into the glass and garnish with fresh raspberries - delicious.



■ **WITH** our insatiable thirst for prosecco (sales continue to soar and have inspired a boom in own-label brands), we never seem to tire of the light, fruity freshness of this fashionable fizz. However, if you fancy impressing mum with another Venetian speciality, try mixing a bellini with Extra Special Prosecco NV, Italy (£6 from £8.50, now until May 7, Asda) - a dry style from the Valdobbiadene region which produces top quality glera grapes. Half fill a chilled champagne flute with peach juice or peach puree and slowly top with prosecco.

Students bring classics to the masses



ADAPTING, producing, directing and starring in a sell-out West End run of a two-thousand year old Greek tragedy sounds like a job for the professionals - but bringing the work of Euripides to a modern audience has been all in a term's work for a hardy band of University College London students who are now set to take a stunning production on tour to the British Museum and Athens.

Run by the university's department of Greek and Latin - consistently ranked among the best in the country - UCL's classical play is a tradition of almost 30 years and has become an institution in the academic world. Working in their own time, students stage a production of an Ancient Greek play in English at the famous Bloomsbury Theatre, handling all aspects of production - from acting and directing to lighting and make-up.

Since 1987 UCL has taken ancient drama from the page to the stage, providing an important educational resource for generations of school pupils and launching careers in the performing arts for many of those involved - Tim Rice-Oxley of platinum-selling rock band Keane provided the music for the 1997 incarnation.

World leading academics

Students and staff also come together to provide a comprehensive programme of educational resources and public lectures to accompany their production - including discussion panels and special talks featuring world-leading academics from London universities for the hundreds of pupils and teachers from around the country who take in the UCL Greek Play as part of GCSE and A-Level study.

2014 saw the broad, bawdy burlesque of the

By Patrick Maguire

comic poet Aristophanes capture the imagination of theatre-goers (and Boris Johnson, who hosted an extra performance for schoolchildren at City Hall), but last month's sell-out run of Euripides' *Bacchae* saw students return to tragedy with a modern take on bloody, ritualistic tragedy pitting savagery and raw sensuality against civilisation and rationality that proved especially popular with the thousands of people who flocked to see five performances over three days between February 10th and 12th.

The play sees Dionysus, the Greek god of wine, ritual madness and fertility, seek revenge against Pentheus, King of the city of Thebes - who, in typically Greek and bloody fashion, is murdered by his own mother.

Enormous success

Directed by second-year English student Emily Louizou, a Greek native, the production was lauded as "mesmeric" and "brilliant" in the press and has been hailed as an "enormous success" by senior academics at the college.

Professor Gesine Manuwald, Head of Greek and Latin, paid tribute to "a professional performance attended by record audiences".

She said: "The UCL Greek play has been an institution in the capital's cultural calendar for over 30 years and is a great way of bringing literature and themes from the classical world to a broad audience, including school groups and interested members of the general public."

"It is so much more fun to experience a Greek tragedy by watching it rather than by reading the words on the page, which cannot really do justice to the impact of a dramatic production. Since this year's team had chosen a timeless staging and highlighted the key questions about human behaviour inherent in the tragedy, even a play about 'Bacchae' felt very relevant to all who watched it."

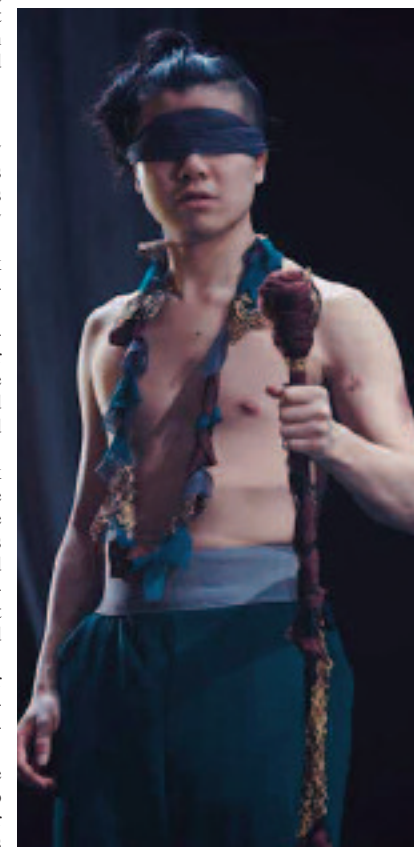
Leading man Adam Woolley, a second year classicist, agreed, saying: "Performing in an ancient tragedy is so helpful to someone academically studying the classics."

"I think the fact that our Greek play has become an annual traditional is a useful way for UCL to keep in touch with schools, making it easier for the keen kids who have their hearts set on classics to get their first flavour of university life. Perhaps it's also the first taste some of them get in ancient theatre in performance - it's our responsibility to

fire their interest if there is any hope of them splashing their cash on West End and provincial runs of ancient works in future!"

Though the boards of the Bloomsbury are free from the incest, murder and tragic twists of Greek drama until next year, the massive success of the *Bacchae* has not yet peaked.

After a flood of positive reviews and record ticket sales, the production will be revived not only in the hallowed halls of the British Museum in July, but also at the International Festival of Ancient Drama in Messene, Greece, in April - no mean feat for a bunch of stressed students working around degree commitments.



■ **A TRIUMPH:** UCL students performing in the university's 30th Greek Play - Euripides' *Bacchae*



TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ PUBS

*The entertainment scene
in West London*



■ PIANO BROTHERS: Dominic Ferris and Elwin Hendrijanto

Piano Brothers hit the high notes

By Geoff Baker

S EVEN years ago a brilliant classical pianist from Kensington called Dominic Ferris wrote to his principal at the Royal College of Music to say thank you very much for his first year's degree studies but he would not be studying anymore as he was joining a rock band instead.

The magic-fingered young player who regularly played the organ at services in large churches and cathedrals in London and around the South East joined a band exotically called Purple Melon and began to let his hair down.

After some months of gigs around Birmingham and London, Dominic began to wonder if he was cut out for this rock and roll stuff and he left. It was a good call; another letter to the RCM got him back in class and two years later

he graduated with a First.

Whilst in final year he met up with another piano playing student, Indonesian-born Elwin Hendrijanto, and they formed the unusual idea of two players performing virtuoso piano versions of the music of today.

They dubbed themselves The Piano Brothers. Their first public performance packed-out the RCM concert hall performing Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from 'West Side Story' for two pianos.

Royalty heard of

them and they were hired to play for the international press launch of the Royal Wedding at Lancaster House.

Next they recorded their first EP at Abbey Road Studios in February 2012, which brought them to the attention of Steinway & Sons. Steinway's managing director, Craig Terry, hosted an event for The Piano Brothers in March 2013 at Steinway Hall in Marylebone Lane, where they performed such an electrifying concert of original piano arrangements of the songs of Adele, Muse and The

Lion King that Craig Terry said of the evening: "The Piano Brothers' performance was so creative and exciting I didn't want it to ever end".

Later that year, Dominic and Elwin were approached by Steinway & Sons to compose the music for a short film called 'The Making of A Steinway B', which demonstrated the building process of a Steinway grand piano in the world-famous Hamburg factory.

In January 2014, Dominic and Elwin performed the piano parts for the music of the opening ceremony of the Sochi Winter

Olympics, recorded at Abbey Road Studios.

Last summer, The Piano Brothers made their official public London debut at Kings Place. Featuring EMC Strings, The Piano Brothers played a tour de force featuring their trademark fiery arrangements of modern classics.

On March 29th, The Piano Brothers will perform for the It's All About Piano festival at the Institut Francais in South Kensington. It is expected to be a sell-out as the brothers are clearly going places. Tickets £15, £8 students, from 0207 871 3515.

Going green for the craic

IF they all turn up it will be a squeeze; Trafalgar Square has an official capacity of only 12,000 and there's reckoned to 900,000 ethnic Irish in London, 12 per cent of the capital's population.

Some sources say that the number of Londoners of Irish descent is 5.5 million – 77 per cent of the population – but that may be a bit of blarney.

But hey, who cares about the stats – it's the St Patrick's Day celebrations in town on Sunday, March 15th, and even Nelson on his column will be turned green for the craic.

As it's Mother's Day too and the Irish love their mums, there could be even more turning out than the 125,000 who joined the celebrations all over the centre of town last year.

The floats and walkers for this year's parade will begin to gather at 10am outside Green Park Tube station.

At noon and led by boxer Barry McGuigan, the parade will set off up Piccadilly, along Lower Regent Street, the Mall and Cockspur Street, up around Trafalgar Square and finish up in Whitehall.

In Trafalgar Square there will be a children's marquee with various workshops offering various activities including decorating your own leprechaun hat, making your own pot of gold, making a rainbow paper chain to cover the huge tent, photo booths in which to dress up as Grace O'Malley and Fionn McChuaill characters, green face painting and Irish-themed nail stickers – and a fancy dress competition for the best leprechaun.

The square will also host an Irish food and drink market and a live music stage for performances from Damien Dempsey, The Coronas, Divine Comedy, Sharon Shannon, the cast of The Commitments from the West End musical, The Saw Doctors and Riverdance.

Meanwhile, at the Prince Charles Cinema in Leicester Square from 12.30 pm until 5pm there's a 14-film festival celebrating the best of Irish movies, including Anywhere But Here, Home, Boogaloo and Graham, Sophie At The Races and The Legend Of Longwood. And more music – and much dancing – will

be hosted at Westminster Cathedral Hall, the venue for this year's Irish Tea Dance from 2-6pm.

A very great deal of Guinness will also be flowing everywhere, perfect for the 6pm toast to St Patrick when Nelson's Column will be lit-up green.

As they say in Ireland, if you're passing – don't.



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TALK OF THE TOWN ★ *The entertainment scene in West London*

WITH so many revivals and long-running musicals in the West End, it is always good to see something new.

A world premiere for *Seasons of Love* - a new musical - took place for one night only, at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

With music by Mark Leddy, this ambitious project brought together renowned choreographer Gareth Walker and designer Mark Cuniffe who were the creative team behind the London Olympics closing ceremony.

Guest stars included chart-topping singer Claire Richards, from the pop group Steps, nineties pop sensation Chesney Hawkes and Mark Read, a former member of the boyband A1.

The show is set in present day Ireland and follows three love stories over four seasons and different stages of life.

Although billed as a musical, this was actually more a rock ballet with songs. The songs, were great and the dancing was astounding, but after the first half hour I did feel as if I was waiting for the story to start.

Once I had come to grips with the fact that it was obviously a dance show, with no real story to follow, I watched and enjoyed all of the elements of stage design and choreography along with some good performances by the guest singers.



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**
LWN Theatre Critic



Although seeming to lack confidence in parts, Chesney Hawkes sang well and his duets with Claire Richards were excellent. Richards showed her fantastic vocal range and her contribution was the musical highlight for me.

Mark Reed had a great voice, but I did feel his

performance was very much like that of a boyband concert, lacking any real connection to the other performers or the production in general.

Duetting with Reed, Hayley Sanderson showed some great class in her performance during the autumn section and Ambra Casserotti and Patrick Smyth also sang with great depth and emotion. However, I found some of the movement of the singers a bit cheesy, particularly the walking forward in unison, which happened numerous times, often leading the audience to think it was the end of the show.

Sensitive portrayal

The dance highlights were many but, if forced to choose, I would say Martin Fenton stood out. His command of the stage and fabulously sensitive portrayal of his character was excellent.

The lighting and projections were good and went some way into establishing which season the audience was meant to be watching, but I still only counted three rather than four, and found the whole thing rather confusing.

In all this was a great spectacle of dance, design and music. I feel with some development it could be a very good show, but it needs something more to pull all of the elements together and make it an easier watch for the audience.



■ **CLAIRE Richards, Chesney Hawkes, Mark Read and scenes from *Seasons of Love***



■ **JERRY'S GIRLS: Anna Jane Casey, Ria Jones and Sarah-Louise Young**

Jerry's Girls 'put on their Sunday clothes'

I love a good musical revue and this one based on the songs of composer/lyricist Jerry Herman, really appealed to me. With so many wonderful Broadway show tunes on the list and some performers I really admire, my expectations were high.

Featuring songs from classic musicals including *Hello Dolly!*, *Mame*, *Mack and Mabel* and *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Jerry's Girls* is written for an all-female cast and captures the true spirit of the great American musical.

Created by Jerry Herman and collaborator Larry Alford in 1981, *Jerry's Girls* originated as a cabaret presentation at a nightclub in New York. This new London production boasted three seasoned West End performers, Ria Jones, Anna-Jane Casey, and Sarah-Louise Young.

Jones, fresh from her recent tour as one third of the West End Women, alongside Joanna Ampil and Kerry Ellis has the most wonderful way of engaging an audience. Her interpretations of show stopping numbers such as 'I Won't Send

Roses' and 'I Am What I Am' were pure musical theatre heaven and will go down in my memory as one of the best performances I've ever been fortunate enough to witness.

I asked Jones what it was like singing such memorable and famous songs. "I've always been a fan of Jerry Herman's wonderful scores," she said.

"I also love that he writes such great songs for older female characters, like *Mame* and *Dolly* - such powerful ballads and feel good tunes. It's wonderful singing hit after hit each night."

Jones wasn't the only one showing her star quality, Casey's 'If He Walked Into My Life' from *Mame* was an absolute joy.

Although I have highlighted the more sensitive numbers, this show also pitched a throng of hilarious numbers which, at times, left the audience laughing so loudly it must have been difficult for the cast not to join in.

Young showed her exceptional comedic qualities with 'Take It All Off' and when

Jones interjected with her 'Put It Back On' the audience were delighted.

With excellent musical and sometimes stage support from musical director Edward Court and woodwind virtuoso Sophie Byrne, this was an absolute treat.

Court said: "We're really lucky to have some of the best songs written for musical theatre all in one show. Jerry's music is from the great Broadway tradition of the 'showtune' - there are some classics that everyone will know and a few surprises along the way. It has been a treat to work with such strong material and of course the three wonderful ladies we have as 'Jerry's Girls!'"

With Michael Ball soon to star in a revival of *Mack and Mabel* at the Chichester Festival Theatre, it seems Jerry Herman's music is very much back in vogue.

This production runs for just two weeks, but if you can get there, it's one not to be missed.

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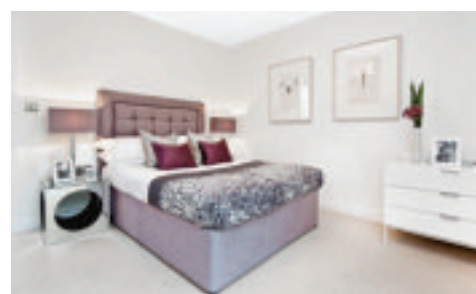
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(BOOKS) Vauxhall Carlton,
Renault, Ford Capri, Ford
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(1970's & 1980's). £15 the lot,
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074860 or 07716 027 681

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0087

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Collectors Items

FIFTEEN 78 RPM RECORDS
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some rare ones. £10 ono. 020
8540 1941 - SW19

Collectors Items

THIRTY 78 RPM RECORDS
Big bands and jazz bands eg.
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Mulligan, Stan Kenton, Harry
James, Humphrey Lyttleton,
Perez Prado, Joe Daniels, Joe
Loss, Ken McKintosh etc. 020
8540 1941 - SW19

EIGHTEEN 78 RPM RECORDS
of music from the 1930's eg.
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Benrys Broadway Boys, New
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07716 027 681

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074860 or 07716 027 681

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the lot. Tel: 07435 074860 or
07716 027 681

Domestic Appliances

DELONGHI EXPRESSO
MAKER Model EC152CD -
Good condition, must see, bar-
gain at £30. SW1P. Tel: 020
7834 4804. Buyer collects
(Victoria).

DYSON CYLINDER AND
UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEAN-
ERS serviced, bagless.
Demonstrated working. £35
each. 020 8692 8449. Can
arrange delivery.

HENRY MULTI-FLOOR VACU-
UM CLEANER Demonstrated
working, clean machine £35.
Could arrange delivery. Tel: 020
8692 8449

HOTPOINT AQUARIUS 6kg,
1200 spin, 8 months old, vgc
£50. Buyer collects. Borough
SE1. 07926 352 449

HALOGEN OVEN unwanted
gift, still in box. £35 ono. (guar-
anteed one year) with £5 gift
voucher. 020 8857 8060

Electrical

WHITE BUSH MICROWAVE
model BMX608 size (H) 29.5, W),
45.8 (D). £18. VHS Sony VCR
SLV-E220 RMTV2070E remote
inc. £17. Bush Video 220-240V-
50Hz, VCR 903 inc. remote £17.
020 8670 4682

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LADIES BEAUTIFUL YELLOW
CARDIGAN with round neckline
with gathered short sleeves and
a chifton belt, button through at
front. brand new, size 18. £10.
Tel: 020 8682 0771

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MACKINTOSH medium size,
pockets, belt, needs some
attention £75. Ring/text 07855
247 801

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(Parr & Co of Leicester) £55.
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brand new, size 18, knee length
£10. Tel: 020 8682 0771

Furniture

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ing sideways for family/student
meals £22. Tall white swing lid
rubbish bin, new £12.
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pedestal, with playball, teaches
your cat to stop scratching fur-
niture. 020 8769 0597

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plated metal frame, black faux
leather seat, swivels, vgc. £8
each, (Argos price £32.99)
each. 2 wooden stools, brown
leather seats, fair condition £7
the pair. 07864 709 397

SOFA Bailey leather
effect/jumbo cord, right hand
from Argos £70. Top Glass
Dining Table £30. In good con-
dition. 020 8664 6628 / 07895
345 163

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CHAIRS wear and tear show-
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each (matching pair). 07737 132
689

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colour, as new £95, also glass
display cabinet £25. 020 7733
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toughened glass top
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with armrests, parasol, never
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from house to flat £75. Hardly
used. Tel: 020 8692 8449

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model. Unwanted gift. £75.
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ono. 020 8540 1941

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perfect condition £10. 020 7733
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Public Notices

DIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER Historic Churches Committee

An application has been received by the above Committee for approval of the following works to an exempt ecclesiastical building:

Application number: H45/28

1. Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Grade II
2. Construction of a single storey office extension
3. Mr Paul Abbott (architect acting on behalf of Holy Trinity Church), Abbott & Associates, 11 Cranmer Road, Riverhead, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2AT, 01732 465 455.

Details of the application may be inspected by contacting the applicant or, by prior appointment, at the address given below.

Any representations relating to these proposals must be submitted in writing within 28 days of the date of the appearance of this notice to: the Secretary, Diocese of Westminster Historic Churches Committee, C/o Property Services Office, St Joseph's Estate, St Joseph's Grove, Hendon, NW4 4TY

Licensing Act 2003 Notice of Application

Notice is hereby given that Bridges (CTN) Ltd has applied to Hammersmith & Fulham Council on 25th February 2015 for the sale of alcohol 06:00-23:45 hours Monday-Saturday and 08:00-23:00 hours Sunday at Bridges, 6 King Street, London W6. Anyone wishing to make a representation in respect of this application should give notice in writing which must be received by the Licensing Section, Hammersmith & Fulham Council, 5th Floor Town Hall Extension, King Street, London W6 9JU by 25th March 2015. Members of the public may view applications at the Licensing Department at the above address or online at www.lbhf.gov.uk. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine on summary conviction is £5000.

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Application forms must be submitted by email only to recruitment@lilianbaylis.com by
9am Monday 9th March 2015. Lilian Baylis Technology School, 323 Kennington Lane, London SE11 5QY

The successful candidate will be required to abide by the school policy for safeguarding children including an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service check.



**The Leathermarket JMB, LEATHERMARKET
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CV's will not be considered.
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For more information, please see details on the [two above roles](http://www.cowleymo.org/news) at www.cowleymo.org/news or for a full job description and application form, please email response@wdad.co.uk

Building Surveyors

Cowley RMO is also inviting expressions of interest from qualified building surveyors to assist the organisation with void preparation and assessment of works. We are seeking to engage a suitably qualified contractor on an 'as required' basis offering a competitive day rate.

If you wish to be considered for [this role](http://thisrole), please email A. Ogunwa at cowley@lambeth.gov.uk with details of your experience, relevant qualification and expected remuneration.

Closing date for all posts: noon, 20th March.

Cowley RMO is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from under-represented groups.

Alleyn's

Alleyn's School

Townley Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8SU

Clubhouse Manager

(Full time, flexibility essential)

This leading HMC co-educational school seeks a Clubhouse Manager to run an offsite sports facility and bar, used predominantly by former pupils and by third-parties booking the premises for a range of events.

The chosen candidate will coordinate the premises in addition to managing several bar events and cleaning staff. They will also ensure that the facilities are maintained to the highest standards and successfully manage relationships with a wide range of users from within the school and local community.

Candidates will have excellent organisational and communication skills and will be used to working independently. It is vital that candidates can work flexibly as a large amount of work will need to be carried out at weekends and evenings. Previous experience of running a similar amenity or experience in an events or catering background would be advantageous.

The salary for this post will be in the range of £22,000-£28,000 per annum.

Closing date for applications: Monday March 23rd at 5pm

Full job description and application details may be downloaded from our website www.alleyns.org.uk, by contacting Human Resources on 020 8613 5016 or hradmin@alleyns.org.uk

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. Alleyn's is an equal opportunities employer.

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Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

R's ROBBED OF PENALTIES

NOT a week goes by in football now when a major controversy becomes a talking point and one team or another is the unlucky victim of a poor decision that went against them.

On Saturday it was QPR's turn to find themselves on the wrong end of two dubious non-decisions by referee Craig Pawson and his assistants, who twice denied them a penalty in the 2-1 home defeat by Tottenham – despite

video replays supporting home appeals.

The ref was probably unsighted when Spurs' goalkeeper Hugo Lloris unfairly brought down Mauricio Isla in the first half, while Nabil Bentaleb handled a Charlie Austin effort from close range after the break. Although Bentaleb did not intend to handle the ball, by hanging both arms in the air he was asking for trouble. Fact is, he blocked what was a goal-bound strike.

Only time will tell how costly – or even catastrophic – those decisions may or may



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

not turn out to be. QPR were definitely worth a point here.

In fairness, QPR head coach Chris Ramsey didn't adopt the default position of many of his moaning managerial colleagues who routinely go over the top in blaming beleaguered officials for every perceived injustice, although he rightly express disappointment in a restrained and dignified manner that did him and the club credit.

He said: "I'm not sure if the referee had a clear view of the first one. I think it was probably clear for everyone to see that we should have had at least one penalty and I'm very disappointed that we didn't get at least one of those decisions."

Wrong decisions

Meanwhile, football buries its head in the sand by eschewing the use of video replay cameras to settle the biggest calls, the careers of players and managers, as well as the future of clubs, are affected by the outcome of all these wrong decisions.

It's time the game gave match officials the help they so desperately need.

"It's fine lines and momentum always changes with goals. When you are fighting for every point like we are, you have to grab hold of anything you can get. When you don't get what you need and you end up losing the game,

that's very frustrating.

"But we can't really dwell on that. The incident's gone and we have to move on from it," Ramsey added.

"We had chances and we really need to be capitalising on those situations if we're going to get out of trouble."

Charlie Austin saved a certain goal when he popped up in his own six-yard box to clear one Spurs effort off the line. But R's top scorer ought to have extended his goal tally to 16 instead of thumping his rising left-foot shot against the underside of the bar in the first half.

"We also weren't happy with the goals we conceded. We'll be back in on Monday to analyse the situation," said Ramsey.

No-one could question the attitude of the R's players and Ramsey admitted: "I keep saying it every week, but if you are a football person you would have seen that the players did apply themselves very well. When you are playing any top team in the Premier League, you need that bit of good fortune to go your way at times."

For all their misfortune, R's also shot themselves in the foot again by defending poorly against Spurs. After making a world class reflex save to deny Harry Kane and another smart stop to thwart a Ryan Mason deflection, keeper Rob



This rare Sandro goal gave R's hope versus Spurs Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Green was about as convincing as the England cricket team when he came out too late for the free-kick that led to Kane's free header for the opening goal.

Green had no chance with Kane's second, after the striker had been handed the freedom of west London when Rio Ferdinand failed in his foolish attempt to step up and play him offside.

Quick to defend

Ramsey doesn't rebuke his players publically and was quick to defend his 36-year-old centre-back.

"I think Rio has applied himself well and I was very pleased with the way he played. In the position we're in, when goals go in there are always going to be people that get the blame, or people who are looked at more than others.

"For Rio to be the age he is and playing at this level, to be applying himself in training and in games, I think we need to really keep encouraging him to do what he is doing."

Inevitably, Kane's two goals in front of watching England boss Roy Hodgson dominated post-match headlines. The irony wasn't lost on the journalists who reminded Ramsey afterwards that he had worked with Kane while coaching at Tottenham under Tim Sherwood before he came to Loftus Road.

"A lot of people have worked with him and I

was just fortunate to be one of them. He has polished himself and worked hard to get where he's at," said the eloquent Ramsey.

When asked if he would pick Kane, who has scored 26 goals in all competitions this season, for England, Ramsey showed his refreshing, self-deprecating side when he replied with a chuckle: "Would I pick him for England? Yes, I would, if it was me. But the way I'm going now, I'm not likely to be in that position! I'll be picking him for the Cubs soon if I don't start winning!"

After 2-1 home defeats by both Arsenal and their north London neighbours Tottenham in the space of three days, and only one win in their last 11 games, Rangers remain in the bottom three. They are three points behind Aston Villa, who look revitalised under new manager Tim Sherwood.

In fact, Villa's progress to the FA Cup semi-final means that R's league visit to Villa Park – scheduled for Monday, April 20 – must be rearranged. QPR have announced that they are offering reduced priced tickets, with a discount of up to £10, for Hoops' fans who travel to the West Midlands ground.

Next up for Ramsey and his men is another London derby. R's travel to Crystal Palace on Saturday for a televised lunch-time kick-off.

He added: "I haven't walked off the pitch in one game and thought the players haven't given their all, so that gives you hope. But the problem is the games are starting to ebb away now and we need wins.

"There have been positives from our last few games and I'm sure that if we can take those into Palace, we can get something. I really do think we can."

KIDS TO WATCH

From back page

won three.

Last season's thrilling 7-6 aggregate victory over Fulham saw the emergence of striker Dominic Solanke as a first team prospect and he has gone on this season to be part of the first XI squad and even had a Champions League cameo role when he had a 15-minute run-out against NK Maribor.

So a turnaround against Spurs, while difficult, is by no means impossible.

The U18s are 10 points clear at the top of their league after 22 games and one player making a name for himself this term is Camberwell-born striker Tammy Abraham. He was a pupil at Pimlico Academy, in Lupus Street, Pimlico and signed his first professional forms in October, having been at Stamford Bridge since he was eight.

He's certainly one to watch for the future. The lad is tall, skilful and definitely has an eye for a goal.

Paul Lagan

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, March 14

Ipswich Town U18 v QPR U18, 11.00.

Crystal Palace v QPR, 12.45.

Sheffield Wednesday v FULHAM, 3.00.

Sunday, March 15

CHELSEA v Southampton, 1.30.

Tuesday, March 17

QPR U21 v Sheffield Wednesday U21, 12.30.

Wednesday, March 18

FULHAM v Leeds United, 8.00.

CHELSEA U18 v Tottenham Hotspur U18

(FAYC semi-final, 2nd leg), 7.00.

Blue & White In Brief

■ CHELSEA will have to come from two goals down to maintain their impressive record in the FA Youth Cup following last week's 2-0 semi-final, first leg defeat at Tottenham.

Blues' coach Joe Edwards told the official Chelsea website: "The general play was tight. We had a lot of action in their box in the second-half but they took their chances.

"Some of the players seemed like they were feeling the effects of an Under-21 game on Monday night in their legs but that's not an excuse, because two games a week is something these players have got to get used to. Jay Dasilva was outstanding and I felt we grew into the game.

"All the boys are aware of our history in this competition. For all the great journeys we've had in recent years, we've never done it the easy way. It's a setback but we all know that climbing mountains is what we're about in this competition and doing it in front of our supporters at the Bridge is what we want."

Chelsea: Collins, Aina, Tomori, Dasilva, Sammut, Collett, Musonda, Scott (Palmer 56), Abraham, Solanke, Brown (Boga 65).

Chelsea are urging supporters to come along and cheer for the under-18s when Stamford Bridge hosts the semi-final, second leg next Wednesday (March 18). Tickets are on general sale and cost just £5 for adults and £3 for juniors and senior citizens.

■ ANGE-Freddy Plumain's second-half strike couldn't prevent Fulham U21s slipping to a 3-1 defeat at Manchester City last Friday, even though the home side was reduced to 10-men after just half-an-hour.

Fulham: Norman, Baba (Casasola 45), Buatu, Donnelly, Evans, Sambou (Smile 55), Roberts, Williams, Na Bangna (O'Halloran 85), Dembele, Plumain.

■ BACK-to-back defeats at Liverpool and at home against Leicester City in the space of four days came as a rude awakening to much-changed Chelsea U21s.

Leicester took an early lead inside three minutes at Cobham last Friday night and Blues never recovered.

Chelsea: Beeny, Dabo, Conroy, Christensen, Wright, Houghton (Palmer 56), Loftus-Cheek, Kiwomya, Mitchell, Boga (Ugbo 62).



Charlie Austin's penalty appeal is turned down by referee Craig Pawson Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

● RUGBY UNION

Hammersmith & Fulham ... 50
Hampstead... 3

GLORIOUS weather at Hurlingham Park meant conditions were perfect for running rugby and after the first five minutes Hammers took control of the game.

But the first points went to Hampstead after only two minutes, when Charlie Bond put his arm around the shoulder of a visiting player to 'welcome' him to Hurlingham. The referee judged it as high and another lax penalty one minute later gave Hampstead an easy shot at goal which gifted the away team a three-point lead.

After a few stern words from captain James Smart, Hammers forced their way back into the game with well taken tries from James Lo and Joel Rabbidge. A strong offloading game, aggressive defence and quick ball allowed Hammers to play at a high tempo and they had built a commanding 24-3 lead at half-time.

The home side started the second-half as they finished the first but with some added power. James Gallo scored the first of his two tries with a forceful fend, while James Boyd-Moss ran over the Hampstead winger to get himself on the score sheet.

Prop Jacob Bray was unable to maintain his try-scoring form, though. He found himself in space on the Hampstead 22. Looking for support and drawing two defenders, he left it too late to try and barge over and was held up. However, Hammers' dominance from the ensuing scrum allowed Gallo in for his second try as he dived under the Hampstead back row.

With the heat and fitness coming more into play, Hammers were looking for every opportunity to run. Another Gallo offload to prop Bray on the Hampstead 22 again found him in space but this time some soft hands and a pass to Neil McClure saw him race over the line in what was his final game for the club.

THE standout bet for me this weekend is to back Under 2.5 goals in Chelsea's home Premier League game against Southampton this Sunday.

If you can't get to the match, sit down in front of the telly before you get stuck into your Sunday roast and watch two cautious teams play out a cagey affair in front of the Sky cameras.

If you look hard enough, you might get close to evens on there being less than three goals at the Bridge. If so, snap it up!

It's difficult to see any other outcome. For all their continued dominance of the Premier League, Blues had not scored more than twice in any of their last 10 matches before Wednesday's Champions League return encounter with PSG. They are doing just enough.

BETTIN£ BANTER

And wouldn't Mourinho be ecstatic if his champions-elect saw off Southampton by the slimmest winning margin of 1-0 or 2-0?

As for the Saints, they have the stingiest defence among the top seven teams, conceding just 20 goals in 28 league games. On the other hand, Ronald Koeman's boys have scored the least goals (39) of the same leading group of teams.

As for Fulham, I've got more chance of picking six winners at Cheltenham this week than guessing what they will do at Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday.

Tony McDonald

SPORT

Thursday, March 12th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Blues heading towards glory

JOSE Mourinho puffed out his cheeks, quickly followed by a huge sigh of relief as the final whistle went at Upton Park.

It signalled that three vital points were heading across London to SW6 after Chelsea's 1-0 win at West Ham on Wednesday of last week.

That Eden Hazard close-range header ensured the Blues remain five points clear at the top of the pile, ahead of Manchester City with a game in hand.

With 10 league games to go, many pundits have already crowned Chelsea kings. At Wembley last week, after Chelsea's 2-0 Capital One Cup final victory over Spurs, one venerable sage from a national broadsheet told me that the Blues had effectively won two titles that day.

He was, of course, also referring to Man City's earlier defeat at Liverpool, which he felt made Chelsea unavailable at the top of the Premier League.

But a closer inspection of the fixtures will show

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plenty of potential banana skins to be hurdled before any such coronation can take place.

Chelsea have to face Manchester United at home and Arsenal away. For those games one would anticipate that Chelsea will perform close to their maximum but a short trip to QPR is never a stroll in the park at the best of times – and that's one match that could prove problematic.

They also have to go to strugglers Hull City and Leicester City and have tricky home matches against Southampton and Stoke City.

Chelsea will hope to extend the points gap over Man City to eight when they play their catch-up match at bottom-placed Leicester on April 29. If everything goes to plan, Mourinho will be looking to have achieved enough points to be league champions by May 9.



HEAD BOY: Eden Hazard draws attention to his headed winner at West Ham Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

He is working to be at least nine points clear of the nearest challenger before Chelsea entertain Liverpool at the Bridge on that date.

A win against the Scousers, with two matches remaining, away to WBA and at home to Sunderland, would ensure that Chelsea couldn't be caught.

The other reason why he wants the title wrapped up by then is that the Champions League semi-final, first leg takes place the following week. By winning the title at that point, he will be able to focus all his player resources on those semi-final matches and, hopefully, the final.

While Mourinho professes to 'just take one game at a time', he will have worked out, to within a few points, just where his side should be at any given stage of the season. As the season pans out, he has adjusted those estimates and, currently, it's believed that he sees the Liverpool game as the title-winning match.

If Chelsea do reach the European final in Berlin, Germany on June 6, let's hope that club owner Roman Abramovich remembers to take a proper suit with him. At West Ham, he apparently wasn't dressed in the

formal attire needed to enter the directors' lounge at Upton Park. By all accounts his plane was late arriving in London and he couldn't change into appropriate clothing in time.

Well aware of the dress code, Abramovich did the honourable thing and initially stayed outside the room. That was until West Ham's Vice-Chairman Karren Brady found out and instructed that he be let in. Can you imagine that happening anywhere else in the world? Nope, me neither, but that's English football for you.

LWN went to press before Wednesday's (March 11) return Champions League round-of-16 match against PSG at Stamford Bridge but thanks to a Branislav Ivanovic header that earned them a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Paris a couple of weeks ago, the expectation was that the Blues, rather than *Les Bleus*, would progress to the quarter-finals.

On Sunday, Chelsea take on Southampton in one of those potential banana skin games. It's an early afternoon kick-off and the Blues will be hoping to go one better than the 1-1 draw achieved at St Mary's at the end of December. The Saints are currently seventh, having flirted with the possibility of finishing in the top four for much of this campaign.

One man who will get a rousing reception is Saints' left-back Ryan Bertrand. The Southwark-born defender joined Southampton on loan from Chelsea before penning a permanent £10m deal in January.

As the understudy to Ashley Cole, he was a tad hard down by when he was unable to cement the left-back berth at Stamford Bridge permanently after Cole's contract expired and he left the club to join Roma. Ryan has the distinction of being the first player to make his Champions League bow in the final – the epic 2012 victory against Bayern Munich, which Chelsea won 4-3 on penalties after extra-time and is indelibly carved in Blues' history.

WHILE Chelsea's first team are performing to expectations, their younger players have had mixed results of late. The development squads fall into three age groups – the U21s, U19s and U18s.

The U21s have lost four on the spin and sit in fourth place. But with 21 points, they are only two adrift of leaders Manchester United.

The U19s play in the UEFA Youth League and are doing well. They topped their group stage and dispatched Zenit St Petersburg 3-1 in the knockout stage. On Tuesday, they contested the quarter-final against Atletico Madrid.

The U18s, who take part in the FA Youth Cup, will have to do well to overcome Spurs in the semi-final, second leg at Stamford Bridge next Wednesday (March 18). The north Londoners took a 2-0 lead in the first leg at White Hart Lane last Thursday but the Blues have a fine pedigree in this competition. In the past seven years Chelsea have reached five finals and

■ CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Focus on Craven Cottage

"Unacceptable" says Symons

WITH only one win in their last 11 games, Fulham have gone from flirting with relegation to the point where they are now physically within touching distance of it.

Whites' 5-1 battering by Championship leaders Bournemouth at home last Friday has left them fourth from bottom, eight points clear of the drop zone.

Manager Kit Symons admitted the manner of the defeat was not acceptable.

Fulham were 3-0 down before substitute Matt Smith reduced the arrears with a goal on his home debut.

Fernando Amorebieta was soon sent off for a trip before Bournemouth added two more goals to complete a comprehensive win.

At times the visitors cut through Fulham's flimsy defence at will. Yes, they were up against arguably the best side in the division but they still made it far too easy for their opponents by defending so poorly.

"They were a different level to us all over the pitch from start to finish," Symons said. "All I can put it down to is three games in a week against three top sides.

"We managed to get ourselves up for the first two. Derby (won 2-0) was a very good performance and result. Watford (lost 1-0) was a very good performance but we didn't quite get the result. We couldn't get going at all tonight. Physically, in every aspect, they looked a different level to us. It looked like a top-against-bottom clash and I'm bitterly unhappy with our performance all over the pitch.

"Until we're mathematically safe we've just got to keep getting as many points as we can between now and the end of the season, it's as simple as that.

SLIGHT CUSHION

"No-one is under any illusions – just look at the table. There's a slight cushion but everyone is fully aware of where we are."

Shortly after half-time sub Smith – who has been recalled from his loan spell with League One pacesetters Bristol City – gave Whites a glimmer of hope with a goal on his home debut to reduce the arrears to 3-1. But Fulham went down to 10 men when Amorebieta was sent off. The Venezuelan was adjudged to have been the last man as Callum Wilson ran clear.

"Initially I thought it was a bit harsh as he was going away from goal but the way we played tonight we didn't deserve any luck, so I've got no major complaints about it," said Symons.

The one positive on an otherwise dismal night for Whites was the display of Smith in his second-half cameo. Symons said: "I'm pleased for Matt. He's come back in, he's hungry and he took his goal very well. He could have had a second one when he went through again but that's the one small consolation I can take from tonight."

Another heartening factor is that there are three worse teams below Fulham. Wigan Athletic and Millwall, who are both eight points behind Whites, were again beaten at home on Saturday, while Blackpool are marooned at the bottom, a further nine points adrift of the rest.

Sheffield Wednesday were the latest team to take three points off Blackpool thanks to their 1-0 win at Bloomfield Road and it's the Owls who host Fulham at Hillsborough this Saturday.

Fulham return to Craven Cottage next Wednesday (March 18) to face fast-improving Leeds United, who are unbeaten in their last six games, having won four.